

# DVG & TGSF Dine in Style!

The Channel  
TGSF TransGender San Francisco



TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgendered Community. Transgender is used as an umbrella term that includes female and male cross dressers, transvestites, drag queens or kings, female or male impersonators, intersexed individuals, pre-operative, post-operative and non-operative transsexuals, masculine females, feminine males, all persons whose perceived gender or anatomical sex may be incongruent with their gender expression, and all persons exhibiting gender characteristics and identities which are perceived to be androgynous.

# The Channel

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco, a California non-profit corporation), is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about TGSF programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to TGSF Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

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(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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- Mr. TGSF 2003-04 ..... Tyler Fong

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- Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Roxy Carmichael-Hart  
..... Rachael Janelle Light and Kara Flynn

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Business Card (3-1/2 x 2)	\$ 25	\$125	\$ 250
4x5	\$ 60	\$300	\$ 600
Full Page	\$100	\$500	\$1000

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## FROM THE EDITOR...



Y'know, Roxy has made several public comments lately about the "pittance" ExCom pays me to knock out *The Channel* month after month, year after year (since 1998 if you must know). It's a little embarrassing. So I'd like to go on record right here and now that it's not the money that motivates me to do this job. The circumstances surrounding my meager "stipend" aren't important. But the context in which it's paid is good for you to know, for if I invoiced TGSF the going market rate for this type of professional outside service, ExCom would be forking out many times over what they're currently paying, and then some. It would literally break the bank. We have enough financial issues to worry about thank you.

I do this job because I want to - I love doing it, and my skillset is well suited to the task. I surrender a full weekend a month to sit in front of my Mac and work, and I miss out on events I'd rather be attending. With the weather as gorgeous as it has been, it can sometimes be torture to sit inside at home all day, wistfully staring at a bright sunny day through my office window. Yet, at the risk of sounding like a cliché, I've always wanted to give back to my community in some way. I saw a need and I stepped up to the plate and filled it. It's worth it to me, personally, to give up a little time for the cause, and to be honest, I'm proud of the results. Regardless of your level of involvement, or how you feel about the organization, TGSF was there for me when I needed them, and I shall be eternally grateful. Nuff said.

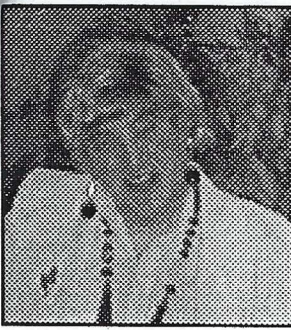
So a member approached me one day, and let it be known that people are kinda getting tired of the whole "Gwen thing," and perhaps I should think about shutting down my tribute/memorial page(s). And at first, I gave some serious consideration to accommodating the request. After all, it's a major bummer all the way around, and people want to read "happy" news and articles in their monthly newsletter.

But then I thought, y'know, that's just tough beans. You want sanitized news, turn on the television. I try to be objective, but we all have to learn how to take the good with the bad. It's been a year now, and if I really wanted to cram it down your throats, I would have run a "one year later" issue on the cover and hammered home the guilt. And yeah you should feel guilty. What happened to Gwen Araujo could've happened to many of us at one time or another, and I don't ever want you to forget it. In fact, it's a sad but important coincidence that the **Remembering Our Dead** project holds its annual **Day of Remembrance** in November, and you'll find details about this year's memorial on Page 8. TGSF will be using the occasion as their End of Month event, so I encourage you all to attend. It's vital that we participate, and grant those brothers and sisters who died this past year a little dignity and respect - far more than the media (or their killers) ever afforded them.

But I did go back and read what I wrote a year ago (the November 2002 issue is still available to all on the TGSF website), and I was sorely tempted to reprint most of it, as it still holds relevance today. Even after a year's passage, I still think about Gwen Amber Rose Araujo every single day of my life. Every day I poke around local and international news outlets, searching for the barest scrap, any hint of an article about Gwen or her family. Certainly, what you read in this issue about Sylvia Guerrero's struggles to survive is a story worth telling, considering how she continues to give so much of herself to TGSF and our community, despite her tragic loss. And the murder trial of Gwen's alleged killers is scheduled to start rolling into our living rooms sometime in the Spring of 2004. So there is no way on God's green earth I am going to let this issue just fade away. Gwen's senseless death affected me deeply and I never even knew her. And I cannot even begin to comprehend the pain and anguish Sylvia has gone through this past year. I feel I owe it to her and her family, to our community, and to those who follow after us - to never forget Gwen, and what that beautiful child represents to so many people.

So yes you'll find several pages in this issue devoted to media reprints of one-year anniversary stories, with writers from the SF Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News and the Oakland Tribune all weighing in. And beginning on Page 15, Jamison Green checks in with two columns - one offering opinion about controversial remarks made by GenderPAC's leader, Riki Ann Wilchins, and a second article with what seems to be the definite review of the much-reviled "Bailey Book." Plus you'll find lots of upcoming events and thought-provoking commentary, so it's not all bad news.

It's traditionally been the season to give thanks for our bounty and to renew our pledges of giving, be it through the United Way or tithing at your church, or giving up your time for a cause or project you care about. Take a moment to reflect on where you are right now. Take a good look around you. Absorb information from all sources, respect others' points of view, but form your own opinions. Even if you feel it's your darkest hour and you're bereft of any hope, try to view yourself from a different perspective. Life and Love will always renew and heal. Turn on to the power of the positive, and you'll see that what you project and give outward, indeed comes back to you, and that we all have much to be thankful for.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

### Less than 100 days...

...until Cotillion 2004. I'll talk more about this in a minute.

First, let me apologize for the late delivery of your *Channel* last month, due to technical difficulties. Those were rectified and we worked hard at the ExCom to stuff, seal and stamp your newsletters. Thanks to the ExCom members for your help.

Last night, I attended the annual dinner of the Diablo Valley Girls. As I noted in my remarks, it epitomized what we are trying to accomplish with Cotillion 2004. It didn't matter what group we were with, or what part of the gender spectrum we were from. We were all together, enjoying each other's company. That's what it's all about. And, thank you to Donna Freeman for arranging the event. Many years ago, Donna, Julie Freeman and Janet Nichols recognized that there was a need for an organization like DVG and worked to fill that need. We are greatly indebted to you for all of your efforts and your hours of dedicated sacrifice.

As I write this, our Halloween party is still two weeks away. That promises to be a fantastic event. Carla told me there is tremendous interest in the party and who knows, we may even make a little money off it. We sure could use it because the Cotillion expenses will be coming soon. At least this year, we won't be competing against the Giants or A's playing in game 6 of the World Series (which turned out to be a very infamous game) so that should help attendance.

Just a word about Carla. When I first worked with her on arranging this event, she told me that there would be a \$100 charge to rent the room upstairs from her salon. As is typical of this incredibly loving and giving lady, she has donated the cost of the room to TGSF, which will allow us a little more flexibility on food. Is it any wonder why Carla has won virtually every award that the gender community has presented, or that she is so beloved by all of us? I'll take a moment here to plug Cal Dreamin', which Carla has decided to resurrect for us in April 2004. She is in need of a lot of help from all of us, so I am putting out a call to my sisters to help out our dear friend to make this event a success.

Another get together will be held at the Tarragon Restaurant in Sunnyvale on December 14, with our annual holiday party. Jackie from RGA is coordinating this event and we will have details as soon as we can. There will be prizes and awards, and I will be presenting awards to several individuals who have stepped up on behalf of the community. I will also raffle off two Cotillion 2004 tickets, as I will at the Halloween party.

And now, some Cotillion news. Work is progressing steadily as we put our show together. We have our judges almost lined up and about eight ladies have committed to being contestants for Miss TGSF. They will have a tough act to follow in Rachel Hill but I know that any of them will be an outstanding representative of TGSF. And we do need a Mr. TGSF as Tyler would like to hand down his crown. Tyler is currently heading the advertising effort for the program and for our silent auction and I deeply appreciate his efforts in helping and promoting TGSF before the many groups with which he is involved.

For those interested in being contestants, here are some dates of note. The "soft deadline" for entering is November 30. However, the final and firm deadline is Sunday December 7, at which time all of your paperwork and contestant fee will be due. (I will have the paperwork to you by early November.) We will have a mandatory contestant meeting to be held at 1:00 PM at Susan Laird's house, 2222 Pruneridge in Santa Clara (right before the ExCom meeting.) Denae Doyle, world-famous image consultant, will be present to offer contestants advice on dress, poise and movement. She will also have available her new video on feminine poise (and has offered to make several copies available for TGSF raffles.) Denae has helped many of us in our transition and is an invaluable resource. I will provide each contestant with the Cotillion rules and most importantly, my expectations of Mr. and Miss TGSF. As Rachael Janelle noted last year, TGSF will back Mr. and Miss TGSF 100% and in return, we ask for a commitment to represent and support our organization when called upon.

January will be an extremely busy month. If you are a contestant, you may as well block out each weekend because you will have lots to do. On Sunday January 4, there will be another contestant meeting at Susan's, time to be announced. At that time, you will be assigned your contestant number and you must have your presentation details and requirements finalized. And once you're in, you're in for the duration. We will then arrange the show based upon the number of constants we have. If you decide not to go through with it, the timing for the rest of the show will be thrown off. So if you decide to participate, please follow through.

Rehearsal time will be provided on Sunday January 11, place and time to be determined. On Sunday January 18, we will hold the pre-show interviews before the judges. This part of the Cotillion is extremely important, as it accounts for 40% of your score. This is because we are not just looking for a pretty face and a great body. We want someone who is articulate, passionate and committed to TGSF. Don't underestimate this part of the event. The impression you make will determine how far in this competition you will go. Dress as you would for a job interview. Following the interviews, we are trying to provide a space in the hotel for rehearsal with the show director.

Friday, January 23 is rehearsal where we will run through the show several times. I will let you know when and where to report. And of course, Saturday January 24 is COTILLION 2004. The show will last from 7 til about 11, then we'll have an after-party in the hotel until about 2. And then grab a couple of hours of sleep because a few hours later will be a celebration brunch from 10 until noon or so. This event will be very important because it will remind us that in the aftermath of the competition, we are still sisters and a community and family. I would like not just the constants to attend but the technical and production teams as well because we will have our own competition while the contestants are having theirs and hopefully we'll still be talking to one another.

Cotillion tickets have started to sell. You can get tickets at Carla's, at I Love It, from Donna Freeman at the Diablo Valley Girls socials or from me. You may also write to Hairzapper.com, 2222 Pruneridge Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050-6431. We are working on getting our PAYPAL account activated so hopefully soon you will be able to purchase tickets online. Remember that before January 1, 2004, all tickets are \$50, but the price goes up after that date to \$60. So it would make sense to buy your tickets as soon as possible, not only to make sure that you save some money, but to ensure that you get a ticket. Oh, and just to clarify, this year there are NO TABLES! It will be theatre seating.

Although we will only be serving light snacks, meals will be available in the California Grill restaurant at the San Mateo Marriott. I am working with the Marriott to try to get a discount for Cotillion attendees and I will let you know if I am successful.

We have been marketing the Cotillion nation (and world)-wide. There has been incredible interest. Not a day goes by when I don't receive an e-mail or a phone call asking about the Cotillion and how tickets can be purchased. This tells me that tickets are going to go very fast.

Elsewhere in this *Channel*, I will present the mid-term report for our ExCom and our organization. There have been many plusses and many things that still need some work. I know we are up to the challenge.

I usually close with a personal note but I want to take a different tack this month. On November 20, we will commemorate the Day of Remembrance, in honor of those in our community who have died by the hand of violence. But this month is also Thanksgiving and it is a time to be thankful. I am thankful for the many friends and sisters I have made in TGSF and in the gender community. I am thankful for the opportunity to have gotten to know people like Carla, Jo-An, Rachael, Donna and many many others - loving and giving people with beautiful hearts. I am thankful for the love they have given me and grateful for the help and guidance they have provided in my transition. I am thankful for groups like TGSF, RGA and DVG which have given me places to go to feel safe, accepted and loved. I thank you to the members of TGSF who honored me with the opportunity to be your President, with the hope that I can give something back to my community. I am thankful that we have a place where we can be ourselves and thankful that slowly but surely, we are moving forward in our goal of acceptance. Let's remember the dead, but let's remember and honor the living. I want you to know that I love you all very much.

Until next month.....peace, hope and love....your sister always,

**Roxy**

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October 5, 2003

## TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** President Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Vice President Susan Laird, Treasurer Brooke Jansen, Social Co-Chair Tommi Watson, Secretary Anne Louise Mortenson. Guest: Teri Lee. **Absent:** Education Co-Chair Kara Flynn, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani, Outreach Co-Chair Marla Selby, Education Co-Chair Kelly Anne March, Social Co-Chair Aiyanna Eveningstar. At Susan's home on October 5, 2003

Minutes were approved.

### President's Report

Upcoming Events for Mr., and Miss TGSF are DVG Annual dinner on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>. Roxy and Rachel Hill will attend. Mr. and Mrs. Gay San Francisco is on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Halloween Party on October 25<sup>th</sup>. We received \$268 from the Universalist Unitarian Church in Berkeley as a result of TGSF being the good neighbor of the month for July and our presentation. For October Roxy will try to get a Denae Doyle tape for a raffle item. Day of Remembrance will be November 20 and that will replace our end of the month event for November, starts at 6:30 at Harvey Milk Plaza.

Cal Dreaming will not use our 501c3 status. Liability insurance is coming up at the end of November and Roxy will go ahead and renew. Roxy noted that she gave an interview with the San Jose Mercury News and encouraged other members of the Ex-Com to provide their own thoughts with the media concerning the one-year anniversary of the Gwen Araujo murder.

The ExCom decided to spend \$50 to run the Cotillion ad in the program for Mr. and Mrs. Gay San Francisco Pageant Program. Tyler is going to advertise for us in the Boys of the Leather Program.

### Vice President's Report

**Cotillion** - Drop dead date for contestants is December 7<sup>th</sup>. This coincides with the first meeting for the contestants at Susan's house. January 4<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting; we will want the specifications for everybody's talent presentation. January 11<sup>th</sup> rehearsals maybe at Carla's or at the Marriott. January 18<sup>th</sup> will be interviews with judges at the Marriott with possible rehearsals during and after. January 23<sup>rd</sup> dress rehearsals. January 24<sup>th</sup> Cotillion and January 25<sup>th</sup> Cotillion Celebration Brunch.

Susan and Kara will work on the PayPal payment plan. Contestant forms are almost ready. There will be slight modifications. Roxy has set up an e-mail list of contestants. Susan will work out a budget for sound and lighting. Roxy will contact Gloria and Kevin about program layout and printing.

### Treasurer's Report

\$3500 is in checking and we are up to date on most of our accounts. We have a few outstanding accounts that need to be collected. \$1000 still due Design Center and \$3000 for old debts. We need to send \$500 to the Marriott and \$100 to the Design Center. Check is needed for Tyler to compensate him \$50 for going to an event. We have started to sell tickets for the Cotillion.

Roxy will send Brooke a spreadsheet for the Cotillion. Brooke needs to get the all the receipts for the Cotillion to come to her.

### Secretary's Report

Susan has compiled the latest version of the database. People who are not up to date with their memberships will no longer get their Channel but Susan waits a few months before cutting them off. It allows for a time lag if people have payments in the mail. Arianna and Kara will be helping with the Website.

Mail: Kelly got the mail last time. Brooke has looked through it. We need to be more organized with the mail. We'll ask Kelly if she can check the mail on a regular basis. Tommi may also be checking.

Next Ex-Com profile, Brooke.

## IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [Susan@hairzapper.com](mailto:Susan@hairzapper.com).



### Education

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, here will be another make-up session by Mac at Bloomingdale's at Stanford. There will be a morning and afternoon session.

The Transgendered Law Event, about what Prop 196 meant to people, went well. Teri attended. Covered were bathrooms, employers, and name transitions.

### Outreach

Kara's been keeping up on the hotline.

### Social

Next Events: October End of the Month will be Leather and Lace on the 30<sup>th</sup>. November will be Day of Remembrance and our Christmas Party will be December 18<sup>th</sup>. We'll do a gift exchange like last year. December 14<sup>th</sup> will be Christmas Party at the Tarragon for all the Transgender groups. TGSF will be a co-sponsor and has agreed to provide \$100.

Halloween Party: Carla, Anne Louise, Tommi and Teri are the organizers. Party is coming together. Music and Entertainment: Susan Laird will be setting up Audio Equipment. Anne Louise will be putting together some music for dancing. We may need some more people for entertainment. Food and Drinks: Carla and Tommi are organizing the buffet which includes ham, potato salads, macaroni salad and other salads, big black pot full of chili, Vienna sausages, Snacks. Drinks and Alcohol: soda and water, just beer and wine. We will be selling the wine by the glass.

Need to be careful with alcohol. We'll be asking for identification from everyone, that way no one feels slighted and no one feels singled out. We will be using two stamps: one for general admission and another to indicate that the person can drink alcohol. We do need to have designated people to go around to make sure that people are not too drunk to drive.

Decorations from previous parties are now at Carla's and have been inventoried. We have large pieces of orange and black material. We still need incidentals like cobwebs and streamers. We'll be having a pre-party on Saturday for decorating the Hall. Others are going to come on Friday.

People can contact Anne Louise for info. Brooke will keep track of tickets and money at the party. She will collect and tally it at the end. We'll need people at the two entrances and the bar. Brooke will help Marla with security.

### New Business

We are approaching the mid-point of our terms. If you are not thinking of continuing you may want to think of who you would like as a replacement. Roxy believes a year isn't very much time to accomplish a lot. Roxy thanks everyone for helping with the Cotillion preparations. Roxy noted that she was interested in another term as President. The Ex-Com will support Roxy and keep her from getting overwhelmed.

We do need more help for next year. Help on the Website is a top priority. We need a membership person who can go out there and get members to come to every event, maybe have a table and recruit members and supply information. We also need someone who can take on a larger role in fundraising. This should be ongoing throughout the year. Tommi suggested finding someone who can locate donations and find resources for projects.

Next meeting - November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 at Susan's 4 PM.



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## LIFTING THE BANNER HIGH

By Danielle Castro

I just came back from the City. I had a fabulous time with the girls. Silia, Angela, Rachael and I went to the Ducal and to Daddy's and of course Marlana's. Today we went over to the Leather Walk and marched while waving our banners high in the sky. People loved being waved at and I enjoyed waving at them and making contact. I got to bond with all the girls a little more, and that was awesome. Silia and I are planning to get together and make an outline of our life stories so we can hopefully go into schools and other venues to share our experiences, strengths and hopes. We both want to help educate people as to our humanness and realities we all live with as T gals.



Everyone in San Francisco was so awesome to us especially the gay community. The only problem I had was today before we came home. I decided to go outside and say a prayer for all of our brothers and sisters that are out there suffering or that have suffered. I was releasing a balloon I got at the Leather Walk when a guy decided to interrupt me. He was picking up on me and the girls were inside a cafe, so I was just about to thank him for his flattery and the girls came outside. He looked at them and then looked at me and asked with a look of disgust on his face, "Are you a man?"

My immediate reply was "No, are you?"

I just hate living in a world where people are such jerks. I didn't leave without telling the man that I hope God blesses him, but my heart was hurt from the experience. In the past I stayed away from the community for quite some time because I didn't want to have to put up with that kind of ignorance, but now I am so proud to be with my sisters and brothers. I feel that it is my responsibility to help educate so that my sisters and the younger generations can live in a more accepting and loving world. I've always dreamed of helping people to grow and see the light, but I was so blinded by the sadness within my life that I had no inner resources to draw from. Now I thank God that I have the clarity to see that the hand I was dealt was with a duty to fight for justice, liberty, and our God given right to live in equality.

When I marched in that parade I was filled with a strong sense of community and love. I had no qualms about waving our banner up high as I could because I think that's exactly what life should be about. Love and community are the keys to our individual freedom.

*Barbara F. Anderson*

Ph.D., L.C.S.W.  
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Certified Sex Therapist

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## Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

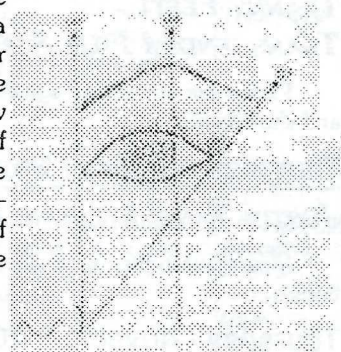
### BROW BASICS

As a child, my naturally thick dark eyebrows grew together. By the time I was 11, I was the object of ridicule. The look wasn't attractive, and it didn't help my already faltering sense of self. That was when my Mom showed me how to use a tweezer. I kept the middle growth under control and life was good. When I was 13, my Mom took me to a salon to get them professionally shaped. It was a life-changing event, an epiphany of sorts. Since then, I've been obsessed with my brows.



### A Life of Their Own

Eyebrows have personalities; little lives of their own. They not only frame your eyes but can transform your whole look. Brows should start right at the inner eye area. To find this area, hold a pencil vertically against the inner corner of the eye. Where the pencil stops is where the brow should start. The highest point of the arch should be at the outside of the pupil. Holding a pencil diagonally from the outer corner of the eye will help you determine where the brow should end.



### Tweezing or Waxing?

When tweezing, tweeze only the hairs above and below the arch, and only tweeze in the direction of hair growth. The same is true of waxing. Should waxing make you nervous, tweezing is an excellent way of individually removing brow hairs. The process is slower, but it's much easier to slowly take hair away than to regret removing too much too quickly. If tweezing is painful, apply an ice pack to the area to be tweezed for a minute prior to tweezing. If your brows are naturally straight, don't force an arch but groom what's there.

Occasionally, brows get over tweezed. If this happens, you can use an eyebrow pencil to fill in the gaps until they grow back (in about six weeks). When choosing an eyebrow pencil, look for a color that closely matches your brows. It should not be darker than your natural brow color. When in doubt, taupe is a universal color that will look best with most brows. Drugstore brands like *Wet 'n' Wild* and *Jane* have a wide range of colors and are very inexpensive. Apply a sharpened pencil in short, hair-like strokes that mimic natural hair. Never draw the brow in one continuous line.

Finally, never let brows get so long that stray hairs are easily visible, especially over glasses. Use an eyelash comb or brow brush to brush the hairs straight up. Trim any stray hairs with a small sharp scissor, keeping with the intended arch. Always keep in mind that the best brows look natural.

Questions and feedback are always welcome. My email address is [BeautyBoost@msn.com](mailto:BeautyBoost@msn.com).

*Although I'm a licensed Esthetician, I'm not a healthcare professional. As such, please consult with your doctor prior to beginning any new skin care regimen.*

**Sunday / November 2 / 4:00pm**

## TGSF ExCOM MEETING

The Next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday October 5 at 4 PM at the home of our Vice President, Susan Laird, at 2222 Pruneridge Avenue, San Francisco. A busy agenda is planned and volunteers are needed! Please join your ExCom in planning for the Day of Remembrance, Thanksgiving, Cotillion 2004 and more!

**Sunday / November 9**

## MAC AT BLOOMINGDALES.

Two Sessions! Contact Siobhan Ellis at 408-431-6997 for all the details on this terrific opportunity!

**Wednesday-Saturday / November 12-15**

## TRANNY FEST!

## TRANSGENDER FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL

Please see notice on Page 8 for special events, screening titles and showings!

**Thursday & Friday / November 13-14**

## JUSTIN TANIS LECTURE AND BOOK EVENT

Please see notice elsewhere in this issue for more information!

**Thursday / November 20 / 6:30pm**

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Gwen Smith, and the Remembering Our Dead Project, sponsors this world-wide observance with a March on Market Street beginning at 6:30pm. The speechifying will commence in the LGBT Center around 7:30pm or so. Please see announcement on Page 8 for all the details. *This event will act as the TGSF End of Month Social, so please be there!*

**Saturday / November 22 / 1:00-3:00pm**

## TGSF EDUCATION SEMINAR:

## AN AFTERNOON WITH DOCTOR O!

If you've done any research on Facial Feminization Surgery, you've run across **Dr. Ousterhout** (and Mira). Our local, yet world renowned FFS surgeon will discuss the differences between male and female facial features and will give a general overview of his procedures. The seminar will run from 1-3pm at the San Francisco LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. The seminar is free, but a donation of \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members is suggested. Please check the board in the front lobby of the Center to confirm the room location. Because of possible high turnout, please RSVP to Kara Flynn at karaflynn@tgsf.com or call 650-504-1100 to ensure room space.

The LGBT Center is located at 1800 Market Street at Octavia. Please use public transportation to access The Center. Limited street parking available. The MUNI METRO LINES J,K,L,M,N, the F STREETCAR, or MUNI BUS LINES 6,7,9, 10, 14, 21, 26, 47, 49, 66 and 71 all run within 5 blocks of the Center, many run within 1 block. Also, take BART to SF Civic Center, then transfer to Muni Metro or F lines.

## November's Birthdays

11/00	Erin Cadiz	11/21	Sheri R.
11/03	Tracy Jaquith	11/22	Angela Marie
11/05	Lorri Levy-Conner	11/22	Michelle Patrick
11/06	Valerie Valeska	11/25	Dale R. Carlson
11/06	Andrea Drane	11/25	Lee Powell
11/07	Mary Ellen Ratcliff	11/25	Gliinda Corner
11/13	Debbie Cook	11/25	Sandy Campbell
11/11	Ann Grogan	11/25	Mikayla Connell
11/12	Katie Kearney	11/26	Meredith Memaran
11/15	Marcia Chapdelaine	11/28	Randall Stone
11/16	Ricki Ballen	11/29	Kathryn Ryder
11/19	Leah Christina Segman	11/30	Carol Alexander
11/20	Lola Hurley	11/30	Rom Bimbaum

**Many Happy Returns of the Day!**

**Saturday & Sunday / November 22-23**

## RAINBOW WOMEN'S CHORUS

Live Concert Recording Sessions! See notice elsewhere in this issue for more details!

**Saturday / November 22 / 6:30pm**

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Feast will be held at Carla's 124 Race Street San Jose, in the Upstairs Ballroom. This will be a potluck (please bring a dish to share!), and a workshop hosted by Transpowerment Program (TAPP). This program is designed to address issues faced by transgender women who are HIV positive or negative. An advisory committee is being formed to look at the various issues. For more information call Carla at (408) 298-6900, or Jen or Hector at (408) 289-9260 x 214. The next meeting of the advisory group will be **Thursday November 6, 6 PM** at Carla's.

**Coming in December!**

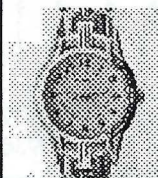
**Thursday / December 18 / 7:30pm**

## TGSF CHRISTMAS PARTY

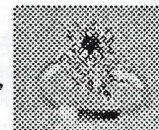
Probably at the Blue Muse. Ayme is being coerced into leading traditional Christian carols again, and will bring her nifty, limited edition, commemorative songbooks to pass out as well. It would be nice if those of alternate faiths would sing traditional Hanukkah and/or Kwanzaa holiday songs as well!

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Necklaces and More!



# Calendar - November 2003

## OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

### Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)

A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, 510-548-8283

### Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Mail: PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170 or call 408-984-4044.

### Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 162907, Sacramento, CA 95816 or call 916-364-7212 for meeting locations. Website: www.transgender.org/sga; email: sga@transgender.org

### Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm at Club 1220, 1220 Pine Street in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 925-937-8432.

### DVG Rap Group (RCC)

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Suite 500 in Concord. For more information call 925-937-8432.

### FTM International

A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 160 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

### TGIF

A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-544-1540.

### Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

A new transgender support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, call 408-293-2429.

### Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays every month at The Diversity Center, 177 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

### SCOUT (SCOUT)

Santa Cruz Organization for Uniting Transmen, meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Diversity Center (listed above); 7:30pm

### The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

A support group for the LGBT community that meets at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Women's Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street, San Mateo - (408) 619-2908.

### Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

288 Turk Street, SF. 415-749-2167. Facilitated TG discussion group every Monday, 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 4:00 PM TGFSF: ExCom Meeting	3 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	4 7:00 PM SCT	5 7:30 PM MPTG	6 7:00 PM DVG RCC	7 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	8 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
9	10 5:00 PM CCHH	11	12 Justin Tanis Lecture Tranny Fest!	13 Justin Tanis Book Event Tranny Fest!	14 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr Tranny Fest!	15 Tranny Fest!
16	17 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	18 7:00 PM SCT	19	20 6:30 PM TGFSF: Day of Remembrance 7:00 PM DVG RCC	21 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	22 1:00 PM TGFSF Education Seminar 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA Thanksgiving @ Carla's
23	24 5:00 PM CCHH	25 7:30 PM SCOUT	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	29
30						

## TGFSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year is May 1 to April 30 / \$40 Single Membership; \$45 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

Special \$35 Single Membership w/ Email-Only\* Delivery of CHANNEL

New Member |  Renewal  Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ | with  Family Member | What Year did you first join TGFSF? \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (Month/Day): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (Month/Day): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional:  Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ What Name should we ask for if we need to call you? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a link from the TGFSF Website to your URL?  Yes  No

Send Check or Money Order to: TGFSF, PO Box 426486,  
San Francisco, CA 94142-6486, or hand to any Board

May we use photos of you taken at TGFSF events in our newsletter or website?  Yes  No

Member at a TGFSF Social.

# Special Events!

## TRANNY FEST!

### TRANSGENDER FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL November 12th-15th 2003

Tranny Fest 2003 "FULL THROTTLE" has a theme this year of "Hot Rods, Hot Pants, and Muscle Cars." Dress up in your best racing & hot rod outfits-Join in the fun!

**Nov. 12th Wednesday 7-10pm:** Lexington Club, 3464 19th St. (@ Lexington, bet. Mission & Valencia St.) Tranny Fest's festival kickoff "PETAL TO THE METAL" SCHMOOZE FEST PARTY. We'll have HOT RODS, Sizzlin Chilli, special guest DJ Rhani spinin your favorite CLASSIC ROCK TUNES. Co-host: Andrea Pasillas, Pit Crew Chef: Gloria Mora FREE. 21 & older.

**Nov. 13th 7:30-9pm:** Political Panel & Open Discussion: TALKIN ABOUT A TRANS REVOLUTION: The Womens's Building, 3543 18th St. in the Audre Lorde Room. Co-sponsored by the Transgender Law Center this panel is looking at Trans/gender community issues from the Bay Area to the entire globe, everything from police and bathroom issues, to the arts and media representations. Each panelist will speak on their work and then we'll open it up to group discussion. Panelists: Theresa Sparks: Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, SF Human Rights Commission & Good Vibrations Store Pablo Espinoza: CUAV and TransAction Dusty Araujo: International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and Johnnie Pratt: People in Search of Safe Restrooms (PISSR) & Board of Directors for the Transgender Law Center. (time/place to be announced).

**Nov. 14th 8pm:** Luna Sea Theater-2940 16th Street (2nd floor, bet. Van Ness and Capp St.) Tranny Fest & Fresh Meat Productions present: Hot Rods and Hot Pants Cabaret. TICKETS: \$8-12 sliding scale, at the door. This fall's tranniest performance event! Tranny glam rockers, homo hoppers, gender outlaws, and other local heroes collide at Hot Rods and Hot Pants. This tour-de-force gender cabaret features the hottest trans/gender/queer talent around: Sean Dorsey, Michelle Garcia, JenRO, Katastrophe, Other Brothers, Jaycub Perez, Seely Quest, Robosapien, Shawna Virago, The Diamond Daggers, and the Transcendence Gospel Choir. Emcees: Tina D'Elia and Prado Gomez. Produced by Sean Dorsey and Johnnie Pratt INFO: [www.Trannyfest.com](http://www.Trannyfest.com) FreshMeatPerformance@hotmail.com

**Nov. 15th:** Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. @ Valencia St. FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL Six groundbreaking films/video shows-26 Film/video Premieres!!! TIX PRICES: \$5 1pm Trans Youth & Family Show Rated PG. All other shows: 2p, 4p, 6p, 8p & 10pm=\$8. PURCHASE TIXS & PASSES: Roxie Cinema Box Office only

### We have three purchase options this year:

#### Option 1

Tranny Fest All-film Show Pass=\$35. On Sale in advance starting Nov. 1st. The All-film Show Pass allows you to go to all 6 film & video programs. No passes will be sold after 2pm Nov. 15th. No refunds-Non-transferable.

#### Option 2

Tranny Fest 3 tix special - Any 3 film/video Shows for \$20. You must buy all three tixs together and choose the shows at the time of purchase. This special can be purchase 30 minutes prior to film program times before 6pm Nov. 15th only. No refunds or Exchanges.

#### Option 3

Individual Single tixs: TIX PRICES: \$5 1pm Trans Youth & Family Show Rated PG. All other shows: 2p, 4p, 6p, 8p & 10pm=\$8. For Sale Nov. 15th only-can be purchased 30 min. before each show times.

Tranny Fest can provide ASL interpretation with advance notice. Please contact us for wheelchair accessibility and other accessibility needs. Please refrain from using perfumes, colognes, scented oils so others with allergies to these may attend. Thank you.

Please see [TrannyFest.com](http://TrannyFest.com) for our full Program and updates.

### IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [Susan@hairzapper.com](mailto:Susan@hairzapper.com).

November 20, 2003

## Trans Day of Remembrance San Francisco

### Anti-Transgender Violence Did Not End With Gwen Araujo.

Gwen Araujo, a 17-year-old transgendered woman, was brutally murdered in Newark, California on October 3rd, 2002. This murder gave national attention to the issue of anti-transgender violence.

Since her passing, there have been 36 other reported cases of anti-transgender violence leading to death. 16 of those cases have been in the United States. Because of this continued threat, we will meet again for the 5th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

**Candlelight March:** Meet at Harvey Milk Plaza (Market and Castro) at 6:30 p.m. March will proceed on Market Street to the LGBT Community Center.

**Memorial Presentation:** Go to the Rainbow Room at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, at 7:30 p.m. Speakers include Yoseño Lewis, Julia Serano, James Green, and Gwen Smith, with music by the Transcendence Gospel Choir, Phillip Evans, and others. ASL interpreters will be provided.

Sponsored by: The LGBT Community Center, CUAV, The FTM Informational Network, FTMI, LYRIC, PFLAG-SF, TransBay, Trans Gender San Francisco, the Transgender Law Center, Transexual Menace International, and the Youth Gender Project.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was started in 1999 as a response to the growing issue of anti-transgender violence leading to death. Last year, the Transgender Day of Remembrance was observed in 90 locations in 8 countries. For additional information, please visit [www.rememberingourdead.org](http://www.rememberingourdead.org). Remembering Our Dead is a project of Gender Education & Advocacy, Inc.

## Gender Identity Center of Colorado's Annual Colorado Gold Rush!



The Colorado Gold Rush is an annual conference held every year in beautiful Denver, Colorado! Come for the excitement and leave with something of value.

#### All are welcome to attend:

- Cross dressers
- Female to male transsexuals
- Male to female transsexuals
- Family, friends and co-workers
- Our significant others
- Those who want to learn more

#### Workshops include:

- Voice
- Presentation
- Demeanor
- Dressing
- Job/Family issues
- Various surgeries available

Saturday night is our **Mardi-Gras Gala Ball**, so be sure to bring your best evening gown or tux and let the glamorous person in you out to play!

For more information, call 303-202-6466 or our visit website at <http://www.cologoldrush.org>.

Date: **February 26 - 29, 2004**  
Red Lion Hotel Denver Central, 4040 Quebec St.,  
Denver 80216 / 303-321-6666



# More Special Events!

**November 6, 2003**

Theatre Rhinoceros and Boxcar Productions present

## WORSE THAN CHOCOLATE

"Worse Than Chocolate" is a new play written by Jaeson Post who digs deep into his comic/tragic daily life, which just happens to include working for lawyers during the day. The play is a sitcom-style comic romp about queer love and lust among the denizens of a San Francisco law firm. Think "9 to 5" meets Barbary Lane and you'll get an idea of the cast of characters and setting for this new comedy. The show is equal parts office satire, paean to Hollywood trivia and old-fashioned love story with a modern, transgendered twist.

**Jaeson Post** may be familiar to theatre audiences as he previously performed under the name Lisa Post in a variety of Bay Area productions. He is currently undergoing transition from female to male.

The show is directed by **Jeffrey Hartgraves** who directed the 2003 "Best of the Fringe" winner "BEAUTIFUL MAN." **Veronica Klaus**, the San Francisco Cabaret chanteuse has joined the cast in a featured role.

Thursdays are "**T-Night at the Rhino**" \$10.00 tickets for all Transgenders, Transsexuals, & Transvestites and **anybody with a "T" in their name.**

**Theatre Rhinoceros**, America's oldest and most acclaimed queer theatre, is at 2926 ~ 16<sup>th</sup> Street in San Francisco, a short walk from the 16<sup>th</sup> Street/Mission BART station. [www.therhino.org](http://www.therhino.org)  
BOX OFFICE: 415.861.5079

**Starts November 5!**

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

## 16TH ANNUAL CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE

**November 5-9, 2003**

in Miami Beach, FL

[www.creatingchange.org](http://www.creatingchange.org)

"As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, NGLTF remains firmly committed to addressing the impact of racism in this country, in our movement and in our organization. The primary educational goal of Creating Change is to build an anti-racist GLBT movement that includes and reflects the perspectives, needs and priorities of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists of all ages, races, ethnic and language origins, spiritualities and incomes."

I have the registration form if anyone is interested. Please email me at [karaflynntg@aol.com](mailto:karaflynntg@aol.com).

**Kara**

## Two Special Events!

**Thursday / November 13 / 7:30pm**

### BEYOND THE TRAGIC TRANNY: CLAIMING THE BLESSING OF TRANSGENDERED LIVES

**Justin Tanis**, author of *Trans-Gendered: Theology, Ministry and Communities*, and Director of Leadership Development, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Lecture will be held at Pacific School of Religion Chapel, 1798 Scenic Ave (at LeConte & Ridge Rd), Berkeley. Sponsored by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry. This event is free and open to the public.

**Friday / November 14 / 7:00pm**

**Book Event** for Justin Tanis and "Trans-Gendered: Theology, Ministry and Communities" at Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Ave, Kensington

Please call or email if you have any questions.

**Susan Willm, Administrator  
Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies  
in Religion & Ministry**

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# Of Interest...

## Video Teaches TGs on How To Stand, Sit, Walk, and Move Like Genetic Females.

Denaë Doyle Productions™ releases world's first professionally produced video on Feminine Movement.

Santa Cruz, October 20, 2003—Denaë Doyle's new video "Feminine Movement" helps transgendered females pass more successfully in public. Suited for both the transgendered woman who wants to improve her feminine image as well as the beginner who wants to redefine herself from "man in a dress" to "truly feminine", the video contains 50 minutes of professionally produced instruction. Transgender women [around the globe] can now benefit from Denaë's unique teaching techniques in the privacy of their own homes.

Topics covered include "Feminine Body Language", "Feminine Posture and Feminine Walk", "Going Up and Down Stairs", "How to Carry Hand Bags", and "Putting Coats On and Off Gracefully". Denaë provides helpful hints, demonstrations and slow motion presentations of feminine behavior to make improving feminine image and movement easy.

At less than half the cost of a private consultation, this video can be used over and over again to practice and reinforce feminine behavior and movement. The video is now available in DVD and VHS formats for the American NTSC-Standard and can be ordered on her website at [www.femimage.com/video](http://www.femimage.com/video).

Denaë Doyle is an internationally acclaimed Femininity Coach who developed her own unique techniques in teaching transgendered woman how to move and behave like genetic females. Denaë has taught hundreds of TGs at conventions and in private consultations. For clients who cannot travel to a convention or the San Francisco Bay Area, she also offers consultations over the phone and through webcam. Denaë's successful modeling career included television modeling, city and state pageants, and co-founding Nation Modeling Self Improvement and Modeling School in Santa Rosa, California. She frequently trains young genetic females for top scores in beauty pageants. More information about Denaë at [www.femimage.com](http://www.femimage.com).



## Upcoming Concerts!

### THE BEST OF RAINBOW WOMEN'S CHORUS

Saturday, November 22, 2003, 8:00 PM, at Le Petite Trianon Theater, 72 N. 5th St., San José. And again on Sunday, November 23, 2003, 3:00PM, at The Center For Spiritual Living, 1195 Clark Street, San José.

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door; discounts seniors, students, and groups. Contact: 408-374-5228 or [rainbowwomenschorus@yahoo.com](mailto:rainbowwomenschorus@yahoo.com) for tickets or more information

Rainbow Women's Chorus will record its first CD, live, at back-to-back performances of its winter concert program, "The Best of Rainbow Women's Chorus." The first show is at 8:00 PM on Saturday, November 22, 2003, at Le Petite Trianon Theater, 72 N. 5th St., San José. To accommodate youngsters and oldsters alike, the second show is at 3:00PM on Sunday, November 23, 2003, at The Center For Spiritual Living, 1195 Clark Street, San José.

Selections for this retrospective concert, and the live recording, were chosen by popular vote of Chorus members, many of whom were among the group's original organizers in 1996. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, with discounts available for seniors, students, and groups. Call 408-374-5228, or send an email to [rainbowwomenschorus@yahoo.com](mailto:rainbowwomenschorus@yahoo.com), for information or to reserve tickets.

The November concert brings together the past with the future of Rainbow Women's Chorus, representing a "homecoming" for returning members as well as a new, exciting "departure" for others. The chance to perform their favorite and most memorable songs again, and to participate in the recording of them, brought back several singers to the group. The November concert will also mark the debut of Rainbow Women's Chorus's new ensemble. Led by co-director Betsy Wagner, the octet was recently chosen by audition from among the members of Chorus.

RWC is extremely fortunate to have as its founding co-director the multi-talented Ruth Huber. A gifted singer and composer, Ruth came to San José after much acclaim as the founding director of Tapestry Singers in Austin, Texas. "The Best of Rainbow Women's Chorus" concert will feature two works by Ruth. In addition, the CD will include Ruth's landmark work, Rainbow Bridge, which Rainbow Women's Chorus and Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus premiered in San José, 1998, and recorded together in July, 2003.

Since 1996, the twenty-five female voices comprising Rainbow Women's Chorus have been harmonizing throughout the Bay Area for the entertainment, education, and cultural enrichment of its audiences and community. Promoting cultural diversity and feminist values through its music, the songs in the Chorus's repertoire are about everyday women as well as our heroines; most are also either composed or arranged by women, and these include several works specially commissioned by the Chorus.

In addition to its regular concert schedule, Rainbow Women's Chorus has performed for various organizations and community activities and events, including: PFLAG, the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, the NOW State Convention, Oracle Corporation, SRI International, Santa Clara County Council of Churches, Bay Area Women's Political Caucus, the Sacramento Monarchs, Bay Area Career Women (BACW), San José City Council, and World AIDS Day.

Rainbow Women's Chorus was honored to co-host GALA Choruses International Festival 2000, which was held in San José in July, 2000. Both the full chorus and the new ensemble will be participating in GALA's Festival 2004 in Montreal.

**MAC**  
at  
**bloomingdales**

The bi-annual MAC event is back on at  
Bloomingdales, Stanford Mall

November 9th.

two Sessions: morning and afternoon

Interested? Contact:  
[siobhanellis@hotmail.com](mailto:siobhanellis@hotmail.com)  
408 431 6997

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# Support Your Organization!

## TGSF Sustaining Memberships

### FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

#### Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

##### **GUARDIAN LEVEL: \$2500**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website  
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion  
Framed Recognition Certificate  
Original Signed Photo of Ms / Mr TGSF  
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float  
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

##### **PATRON LEVEL: \$1000**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website  
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion  
Framed Recognition Certificate  
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float  
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

##### **ANGEL LEVEL: \$500**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program  
One complimentary ticket to the Cotillion  
Framed Recognition Certificate  
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

##### **CENTURY LEVEL: \$250**


###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program  
Framed Recognition Certificate

##### **MERIT LEVEL: \$100**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program  
Recognition Certificate

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### **Make your CONTRIBUTION to TGSF Today!**

Your Sustaining Membership contribution will be used to support the educational and social activities for TGSF.  
Please make your contribution now!

Please indicate your level of giving:

Guardian - \$2500     Patron - \$1000     Angel - \$500     Century - \$250     Merit - \$100

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you DO NOT want TGSF to acknowledge you as a Sustaining Member

Please mail this Tax Deductible Sustaining Membership Contribution Form along with your Check payable to TGSF to:

**TGSF P.O. Box 426486 San Francisco, CA 94142-6486**

**Thank you for your support of TGSF!**

# Readers Respond

## Speech by Chrysanthemum Hyphus

Trans March Rally,  
October 11, 2003, in Santa Cruz, CA.

*Chrysanthemum Hyphus is a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual. She has been a resident of Santa Cruz for eight years. She emerged as a woman ten months ago, and is scheduled to have sex-reassignment surgery in the second quarter of 2005. She has been the hostess of the Santa Cruz Trans program of the Diversity Center since February of this year. Santa Cruz Trans provides support and education for the transgender community and the general public.*

My process began when the news story about Gwen came out, and it really saddens me that my awareness of what I needed to do with my life was steeped in such an awful incident, and that story illustrates just how bad it can get. People who have to come to face having to do gender reassignment, every one of them I have talked to goes through some point where suicide seems like a reasonable alternative. Many people do kill themselves over this. By one study, half of all transsexuals kill themselves by the age of thirty. These are all completely avoidable, because it is all because of hate and intolerance.

I went to a memorial last weekend for the one-year anniversary for Gwen's murder. I'm happy to say that in the intervening year I have become friends with Sylvia Guerrero, Gwen's mom, and I've seen the pain that she's going through. There were people at this event that burst into tears, people who knew Gwen, and I was really gratified to hear so many speakers of all of these organizations in Newark that are working to create a more tolerant world, and I'm really grateful for that.

I think it's important that we claim our own power as trans people. There are many times when we have tried to attain getting our rights encoded in legislation such as AB196 by piggybacking on the larger movement, but history has shown that when it comes to GLBT legislation, the T is the first to go. There are some issues that are trans issues that are worked on by the larger queer community. Gay marriage is an example. Once it becomes possible for anyone to marry anyone else, it's not going to be possible anymore to challenge the validity of a marriage based on one's biological sex. So this is one area in which we should be allied with the larger queer community, but it bears pointing out that AB196 was passed as its own standalone legislation. There are groups of people that are much smaller than the trans community that are successful in getting their agenda through, because they know how to use their resources, they know how to focus their energy.

I think it's important for people in the transsexual community in particular, to remain involved. It's kind of the nature of people like me to go through a transition and then move on, and what that does is [it] creates a deficit of positive role models for new people coming in, and I think we need to encourage some people to stick around to encourage and support those people that come after us.

The last thing I want to mention is that patriarchy really sucks. I don't think that people realize just how much it sucks. I think men in this society really don't know how good they have it, because I tell you, so many comforts have been stripped from me in this process. Of the ones that I miss the most, one of them is the ability to have the expectation of being left alone. I never used to be approached by random people asking me for anything, let alone [about] getting into their car and giving them a blowjob. Another privilege that I dearly miss is the automatic presumption that what I have to say is important. Boy I do miss that one. I notice that as I have progressed in my transition, more and more when I'm hanging out with groups of men, I can't get a word in edgewise. And I tell you I've become a lot more assertive since I came out.

So, the list goes on, and we need to recognize the poison that this is, and we need to recognize that patriarchy is being replicated in the queer community. There is a definite hierarchy in the queer community. You have the gays and lesbians, then you have the bisexuals, and then you have the transgender people. Within the transgender community, among transsexuals you have a hierarchy too. You have the elite, through the fire post-op people and then underneath that you have people that are pre-op. Part of this is a class issue. It's a class issue because it takes money to do sex reassignment. Some people will never have the opportunity to have sex reassignment surgery. I'm wondering if I'm going to have the chance, because it may be that one of the casualties of my process is destroying my career.

## TRANSGENDER SURVEYS NEEDED FOR TRANSVISION

I need your help. My name is Tiffany Woods and I am the program coordinator for TransVision, the only transgender program in South/Central Alameda County. TransVision is a program in the HIV Prevention Dept. of Tri City Health Center, located in Fremont. We offer services for Male to Female transgender women who live in Alameda County. We offer Free and Anonymous HIV testing and counseling, free safer sex supplies and needle exchange, workshops and events info and referrals on transgender issues.

I am conducting an extensive survey on HIV risk behaviors, psychosocial issues, substance use and other issues that relate to transgender women. This survey is targeted to transgender women who are 35 years and younger and live in South/Central or East Alameda County.

I need 20 surveys completed by mid Dec. The surveys will be completely anonymous and confidential and you will be compensated for your time with a gift. The information collected will help us develop a more comprehensive program designed for the specific needs of transgender women who live in Alameda County.

If you are eligible and interested in participating in this survey, please contact me at Tri City Health Center, (510) 713-6690, ext. 9. We can set up a time to meet and do the survey, 30-45 minutes. I am really excited about this project and I look forward to meeting you and finding out how TransVision can better serve Alameda's transgender women.

**Tiffany Woods  
TransVision**

**Tri City Health Center • (510) 713-6690, Ext. 9**

Life is still better now. People need to realize that the big disconnect in terms of the misunderstanding of people going through this comes around dishonesty. A lot of people who don't understand what it's like to have a gender identity that's different from one's physical sex see someone who's like myself, biologically male living in female role, and some people will see it as gender fraud. In the case of Gwen, it was fatal. People get that angry about it because they think they're fooled. What a lot of people don't understand is that people like Gwen are actually expressing a deep truth about themselves. For me, this [my role] is more true for me than my body. Often the thing that we notice first and foremost about people is their body, but if you think about it our perceptions of ourselves are very different. There's this whole panoramic experience that we call consciousness, and that's what each one of us has to live with. That's what each one of us has to wake up to every day, and it's a lot more real than even our bodies. Consciousness has its own properties. One of those properties is identity.

I don't know how I ended up this way, but I hope by the turn of the next century, that when people have to face having a conflict over identity, suicide won't be an obvious option. It was for me. I feel like the committee in my head voted 51-49 percent to decide to give it one more try, and my fear of all the hate, my fear of maybe being tortured to death was pretty scary. This is a good town to be in. It definitely hasn't been as bad as I know it has been for many people, because of this community. Still, early on in my transition, I got ridiculed on the street, I've been chased down the street by people I thought were going to kick my ass, even in this town, but, by and large, it's really one of the best places in the world to do this, and I'm thankful to be here, and I'm thankful to see all the people out here coming out and making a point, having pride in being transgender, or being sup being supportive, and I thank you.

## ExCom Profile

### TREASURER, BROOKE JANSEN

I have always been a night person. I spend most daylight hours working in a building with no windows – some kind of engineering or something. I go home under cover of night, to a house with no lights. Actually, it has lights, it's just that I rarely use them, and when they burn out I don't replace them. How do I put on makeup, you ask? One's eyes adjust remarkably well. There's also this thing about mirrors, such that lights wouldn't help anyway, but I'll save that story for another time.

Night is when my true inspiration comes. One cannot be creative on an empty stomach, of course, so it all begins in the kitchen. Secret family recipes – much like my work, I'd tell you but I'd have to bite you. If the place smells like garlic, that's just my pet project to see how high a tolerance I can build for the stuff. Maybe one day I'll have you for – I mean over for – dinner.

Once I get those creative juices flowing, I start writing. Most of my publications have been technical but I plan to publish my first novel this coming year. If I'm not writing, I'm probably reading all night instead (sleep is overrated). I try not to completely lose track of

time – I need to get in my morning's exercise before first light, otherwise it's SPF 45 and shades for me as I make a mad dash for the train. This area really needs a subway system.

I write this the morning following the TGSF Halloween party, my blackened fingernails tapping away at the key-

board. Halloween has always been a favorite of mine - for a week or so each year I suddenly seem to blend in. After so many years of variations on a motif, however, it has become increasingly difficult to put together a fresh look. Then, about a year ago, it hit me: if I come out as a transgendered woman, I will have all kinds of creative avenues for midnight fashion to look forward to.

I'm Brooke Jansen, transsexual vampire.



presents

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# Hart To Heart

## MID-TERM REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Normally I use this column to reflect upon a personal experience. I thought that since this month marks the mid-point of my term and the terms of your ExCom members, this would be an appropriate time for a self assessment. I want to make it clear that my remarks are not directed at anyone in particular. I have said all along that we will succeed or fail as a team. Anything I state in this column I apply to myself. We have had some successes and some disappointments. The disappointments should not be considered to be failures but should be used as incentives for setting goals for the next six months and beyond.

Although I have said it before, it bears repeating that I don't believe any of us fully appreciated the job that Rachael Janelle did as President. She had her finger on the pulse of every segment of our community. She knew which button to push and when to push it. She garners enormous respect from this community. I will admit that at first, I was jealous and envious of the fact that everything seemed to come to her so easily and my mistake was trying to be her. As I have since learned, it made more sense to try and emulate her approach, rather than to compare myself to her. I knew that I would have to set my own agenda but that I could do my job better by watching the way she did hers. We talk almost every day and I know that whenever I have needed anything, she has been there for me. She lets me pick her brain and ask any question I have. We have a friendship that goes beyond TGFSF. It saddens me that she is not a part of the ExCom but she has not stopped being a part of this community. I think we all need to take a moment and to recognize the impact she has had on many of our lives and that we would not be the people we are without her.

I am proud of the many things we have accomplished thus far:

**Outreach.** This is where TGFSF shines. We are continuing to make new people feel welcome. We have provided a great deal of information at many events and it is obvious that a great need is out there. I am very proud of Kara for the manner in which she has worked the hotline - marvelous considering that she is the Education co-chair and outreach is not really in her job description. If we did nothing else but outreach, we would still be an important organization.

**Pride.** Our beautiful float made a statement. We are an important part of this community. And I was especially pleased with the teamwork that we had to build that float. I have previously noted the work of all, but again, Rachel Hill and Susan Laird were the prime movers in bringing this about.

**Cotillion 2004.** Technically, perhaps I should not put this in the success column just yet. But, recognizing the fact that we changed venues and had to start from scratch with our logistics, I think we have done a remarkable job. We are selling tickets and we have moved quickly to line up talent. I have also established dialogue with many other gender organizations to inform them of the Cotillion.

**Initiative.** Due to extenuating circumstances, two of the elected ExCom members could not continue. But I was delighted with the fact that Anne Louise and Tommi quickly stepped forward to fill in the gaps. I am also pleased that at the End of the Month events, several individuals have helped to welcome newcomers. A good example was the September End of Month when Ally and Mina helped out.

**Debt.** The good news is that we have paid down some of the debt. I'll cover the bad news later.

**Halloween.** Again, perhaps it is premature to call this a success before it has been held. But we have had several excellent individuals take the lead in

planning this event and it may even make a little money. We certainly owe a lot to Carla.

Things we need to work on:

**Website.** Susan knows that this is an endless source of frustration for both of us. We have no pictures of Mr. or Miss TGFSF, no pictures of Pride or our other events. It says something when I can get more information on the Cotillion from Carla's website than I can from ours (but then we are not blessed with Laura Marlowe as our webmistress.)

**Fundraising.** Another disappointment. Other than the Memorial Day BBQ at Rachael Janelle's, we have not had one major fundraising event. Our one attempt to try to bring corporate sponsors into TGFSF was derailed by a couple of shrill voices. I want to get more on this subject later.

**Debt.** We are still in the hole to some of our members. I am truly sorry for that and we will make good as soon as we can. If we can make the Cotillion a rousing success, we can perhaps eliminate our debt. Unfortunately as we plan for the Cotillion, our debt load will increase.

**Involvement.** It has been good in some areas, bad in others. On one hand, we had 20 or so people show up to build the Pride float. On the other hand, we barely made the number of monitors needed. And at times, we have barely made quorum at ExCom.

**Communication.** This is solely my responsibility. At times I have not fully communicated with our representatives and I need to do a better job in this area. I also need to delegate more, which I did for Halloween and the results have been excellent.

Goals for next year:

**Appoint a full-time webmistress.** Susan Laird is our webmistress and Vice-President. She is also working on the Cotillion, maintains the database and membership list, and tries to keep a full time electrolysis practice. This is too much of a workload for one person. At times I have gotten impatient and frustrated. Susan, I am sorry for blowing up at you sometimes. I do appreciate you but it is obvious you need help. Worse comes to worse, we tear down the old website and start over.

**Appoint a full-time membership "czarina".** We need to have booths at all of the events we attend to pass out information on our organization. We need to make sure we cover San Francisco and San Jose Pride, the Folsom Street Fair, Castro Street Fair, etc. We need someone who can answer membership questions and send welcome letters to new members.

**Appoint a full-time fundraiser.** As I noted, we made an effort to reach out to corporate sponsors and a vocal minority killed this opportunity. We cannot keep nickel and diming the small merchants. They don't have the money they used to. We need to go after the bigger fish. If corporate sponsorship works for Pride or for the Folsom Street Fair, who are we to think we are so self-righteous and not go after the same sponsors? Corporate sponsorship not only increases the visibility of our organization but serves the purpose of recognizing transgendered people as consumers and as potential employees. The money aspect is secondary compared to the other global benefits we would

**Continued on Page 21**



Mr. TGFSF 2003, Tyler Fong with Roxy at Folsom St. Fair

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# Visible Man

## WHO LOVES YA, BABY?

**Jamison Green** offers a man's POV on life in the trans lane. Opinion, advice and information from an internationally respected leader of the FTM community.

The marriage between G, L, B and T interests has not always been a happy one, but trans activists have been working very hard for over a decade now to ensure that relations between our camps are constructive and mutually supportive. So I was quite surprised and dismayed to see Riki Ann Wilchins' opinion piece in the September 2 issue of *The Advocate* magazine. I can't imagine that Riki would consciously work to undermine the long-standing efforts of transsexual activists to establish ordinances and statutes that protect and enhance the rights of all gender-variant people. I know she was mistaken in her statement that the laws transsexual activists have passed in recent years do nothing to protect gender expression, somehow ignoring gay and lesbian people. She can't have meant to say that, because it's simply not true.

While she doesn't explicitly say that GenderPAC is the only national organization fighting for the gender rights of nontranssexual people, the implication is there. I know Riki gets excited, and she's a passionate worker for the cause, so I can't really blame her for trying to position her own group as the flagship organization working for everyone's gender rights. She must have just gotten carried away, forgetting how much work transsexual activists have done over the past decade to pass laws that benefit everyone, laying the groundwork for GenderPAC and the transgender rights efforts of most of the largest LGB (and now T) organizations in the U.S.

From the beginning of my own political trans activism, I've been extremely conscious of the need to achieve protections for woman-identified women who have masculine characteristics and male-identified men who have feminine characteristics, regardless of whether they are gay or straight. Just as it is a common misunderstanding that the word "transgender" is the new, politically correct way of saying that a person is transsexual or that they are considering changing their sex, Riki's statement implies that legislation that uses only the words "gender identity" and not "gender identity and expression" is inherently narrow in scope and won't protect nontranssexual people. Well, that's not true. It depends on how gender identity is defined, and while certainly some of the pieces passed over recent years were more carefully crafted than others, almost every gender-identity ordinance passed in U.S. cities and states since 1994 has included gender expression or "actual or perceived gender" in the definitions of gender identity.

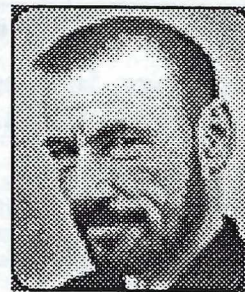
Everyone has their own interests at heart when they describe their experience of gender oppression, or gender nonconformity. Riki says, "We usually think of the 'bathroom issue' as a problem for transgendered women who have changed sexes," but transsexual activists who have been working to pass local ordinances are very well aware of the problems faced by some pretransition or early-transition FTMs, and of butch (or otherwise masculine-appearing) women — whether or not they are transidentified or even lesbian-identified — who are harassed just for trying to use a public women's restroom (or men's, when their gender identity encourages them to open that door). These activists are also well aware of the complications of trying to protect crossdressers' gender expression and bathroom access and safety. Crossdressers often make legislators and the general public much more anxious than even gays or transsexuals because they seem unpredictable. Consistency of expression is one of the common compromise points in many statutes, leaving it up to local Human Rights Commissions or other agencies to finesse negotiations when complaints occur, as they try to educate about the difference between gender expression and criminality. It would be much easier, in many cases, for transsexual activists to seek protections only for transsexual people, but we don't because we don't think that's fair.

So it felt like a low blow to many activists around the country when Riki's statement seemed to tell *The Advocate's* readers that they should distrust transsexual activists. It's a shame that GenderPAC works so hard to distance itself from its transsexual origins, but in these days of homogenizing spin I guess it's to be expected. We are not living in a very liberal climate, after all. ...

I also have a vision of a world in which identity politics matter less, and respect for individuals matters more, in which people can be seen and accepted by including and acknowledging their differences and uniqueness rather than by pretending we are all alike. I agree with Riki that gender expression is a great crossover issue. But I don't think it is the great crossover issue. Everyone has a sex, everyone has a sexual orientation, everyone has a gender identity and some kind(s) of gender expression. Everyone has social needs, physical/material/economic needs, emotional needs. There are millions of touch points between people that can be turned into great crossover issues. What we are looking for in our lives is integrity — our own particular sense of wholeness and well-being. We want to see integrity in our leaders because we want to

trust and respect them. Their integrity reflects on us and gives us hope. I think most transsexual activists want to see GenderPAC succeed because they believe in the principles of gender freedom GPAC is working for, as I do. But when Riki wrongly disparages transsexual activists, she alienates many talented and successful would-be allies.

So to the gay and lesbian readers of *The Advocate* who are wondering why they ever bothered to add T to LGB, I say, "Who loves ya, baby?" Who is standing up for your rights? Take a good look at the legislative history. It isn't too difficult to identify the real champions who have worked in the trenches to create positive social change for queer and gender-variant people. Most of them are not well-known individuals, and very few of them have become leaders of organizations, though some have been instrumental in furthering the work of many different groups. Building the integrity of the movement for freedom from gender oppression requires building coalitions with others, not falsely characterizing the work that others have done.



## BAILEY'S WICK

In April 2003, professor and chair of Northwestern University's psychology department J. Michael Bailey launched his book, "The Man Who Would Be Queen" (Joseph Henry Press, Washington, D.C.). Six months later, Dr. Bailey is the subject of an investigation into his research practices. Some of the transgendered and transsexual women he wrote about, as well as others, like professor Lynn Conway of the University of Michigan, were deeply offended by much of the content of Bailey's book. What is all the fuss about? He and his supporters say he's presenting real science and that his detractors are merely transwomen who don't like the way they look in print. I thought I'd better read the text myself before taking sides.

Subtitled "The Science and Psychology of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism," "The Man Who Would Be Queen" reads more like a limited review of the literature merged with abstracts from a diary than the results of truly scientific study. Employing an engaging literary technique to draw readers into the "life" of one dramatic character, "Princess Danny," to whom the author returns as to a port in a storm, Bailey practices near-tabloid journalism with essentially the same educative effect as the novel and film "Silence of the Lambs."

The technique is obvious: It relies on the audience's fascination with stereotypical notions of freakishness or difference to create a bond between author and audience, enabling these two entities to indulge what might seem an almost morbid curiosity about transgendered and transsexual people, in this case specifically male-to-female people and gender-variant, male-bodied people, gay and straight.

Bailey relies most heavily on the work of Canadian psychologists Ken Zucker and Ray Blanchard, yet there are very few actual citations of their published work. Dr. Bailey makes suggestions for further reading, but offers no bibliography, nor references to studies he mentions, nor discussions of any work that might contradict his own theories and experience. In fact, there is no real premise or hypothesis, no experiment, no result — no science at all, only invocations of science.

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## STUDY HINTS SEXUAL AND GENDER IDENTITY IS IN THE GENES

Patrick Letellier, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

Sexuality and gender identity are part of our brain's hard-wiring and are determined before birth, according to a study released by genetic researchers at the University of California on Monday.

"Our findings may help answer an important question — why do we feel male or female?" said Dr. Eric Vilain, a UCLA genetics professor and lead investigator in the study, in a prepared statement. "Sexual identity is rooted in every person's biology before birth and springs from a variation in our individual genome," he said.

Vilain and a team of researchers at the UCLA School of Medicine identified 54 genes in mice that may explain why male and female brains look and function differently. The genetic differences were found before the animals developed sexual organs, and before the hormones testosterone and estrogen developed in the embryos. Scientists have long believed these hormones were wholly responsible for sexual development. But this study indicates that hormones cannot explain everything.

"Our research implies that genes account for some of the differences in male and female brains," Vilain said. "It's quite possible that sexual identity and physical attraction is 'hard-wired' by the brain," he said. "If we accept this concept, we must dismiss the myth that homosexuality is a 'choice' and examine our civil legal system accordingly."

The study has particular significance for people born with ambiguous genitals, a phenomenon known as "intersexuality." Approximately one baby in 3,000 is born with genitals that make it difficult or impossible for doctors to determine whether the child is male or female. Typically, and over the objections in recent years of intersex activists, doctors assign the child a male or female identity that may or may not be accurate, and surgically alter the child's genitals according to that assignment.

"If physicians could predict the gender of newborns with ambiguous genitalia at birth, we would make less mistakes with gender assignment," Vilain said. The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights groups, welcomed the results of the study as part of the mounting evidence that sexual and gender identity are biologically determined. But HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch cautioned that civil rights should be granted to all people regardless of genetic findings on gender and sexual identity.

"Although further research will be conducted by this team, at the end of the day, the question of nature versus nurture shouldn't matter," Birch said in a statement. "Laws in America should protect everybody equally," she said. The UCLA study comes on the heels of another study supporting the biological roots of sexual orientation. Two weeks ago researchers at University of East London and King's College found what they called the first evidence of "a non-learned, neurological basis for sexual orientation." They studied groups of homosexual and heterosexual men and women and found significant differences in an involuntary response to being startled: eye blinking.

Startle responses cannot be learned, the researchers said, and are controlled by the limbic system, a region of the brain that also controls sexuality. "This is very strong evidence that sexual orientation may be 'hard-wired' in this region," said Qazi Rahman, one of the researchers.

## Oakland Panel Approves TG Proposal Bill Expands Sexual Orientation Aspect Of Anti-Discrimination Law

By Laura Counts, STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — Transgendered people will be protected from discrimination by the police and in public restrooms, under an ordinance adopted by a City Council committee Tuesday.

Oakland will join a growing number of cities that include San Francisco, San Jose, Boston and Dallas when it adds the term "gender identity or expression" to the term sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination law. Following its unanimous approval at Tuesday's finance committee, the law will go to the full council on **November 4**.

The ordinance will cover city facilities as well as all business establishments that are open to the general public, such as restaurants, cafes and shops. It will allow transgendered people access to restrooms and dressing rooms appropriate for the gender they identify with, even if it is different than their biological gender or what others perceive them to be.

Patricia Kevena Fili, development coordinator for the AIDS Project of the East Bay, who spearheaded the new law, said it will also have symbolic power. "A lot of transgendered people have been abused so badly they disappear, they become invisible," she said. "This will allow people to come forward and believe they matter, because the Oakland City Council says they matter."

Kevena Fili said the law was not prompted by a specific incident — though she claimed that transgender people have been harassed by the police — but is part of a movement to get such laws passed. The state recently added similar language to the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

Kevena Fili said her group's next step will be to petition the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to add such anti-discrimination language. The new law also will protect non-transgendered people who may just dress or look like the opposite sex. Jill King said she has experienced such discrimination.

"I may not look like I fall outside the norm, but with a buzz cut I look quite different," said King, who now has shoulder-length hair. "I was turned away from a job for which I was overqualified, based on my appearance."

Although there is no funding attached to the new law, sponsored by councilmembers Danny Wan (Grand Lake-Chinatown), Nancy Nadel (Downtown-West Oakland) and Jean Quan (Montclair-Laurel), the goal is eventually to provide sensitivity training for the police department and city workers. The city's training budget has been stretched thin by budget cuts.

Although the committee passed the ordinance unanimously, Councilmember Jane Brunner (North Oakland) asked for more information on whether the city has the authority to require businesses to comply.

### Patricia Comments:

The city attorney's office will provide a report when the issue comes back to the council. On **November 4th**, the ordinance will not be a consent item, but rather it will be a non-consent item. Non-consent agenda items begin at 7:00 p.m. As we get closer, I will know more about where we will be placed.

We would like to make a huge statement on this night. A roomful of LGBT activists and supporters in the Oakland City Council Chambers will make such a statement. Contact me if you have any questions.

**Thanks,  
Patricia Kevena Fili**

**Wendell Debele** M.S. (T.C.M.) Dipl. L.Ac.



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## **NTAC Action Alert Bay Area Human Rights Group Plans Transgender History Mural**

Transaction, a program of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights (EBC), has announced plans to commission a transgender mural in the San Francisco Bay area. Transaction spokesperson Monika Ramos explained that the goal of this project is to cultivate community pride among all transgender people in the area across gender, race, and class lines. "The project is working to create San Francisco's first mural dedicated to transgenders of color in our community," she said, "Our histories, our struggles and our hopes for the future." The mural will also commemorate transgendered people who have lost their lives through hate crimes or at the hands of the police.

The EBC <[www.ellabakercenter.org](http://www.ellabakercenter.org)> mission is to document, expose, and challenge human rights abuses within the criminal justice system, combining policy reform, media advocacy, public education, grassroots organizing, direct-action mobilizing, cultural activism, new technology and legal services to accomplish their mission.

Transaction asks people or organizations interested in supporting or learning more about this project to contact Monika H. Ramos at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, 415-951-4844 ext. 238.

## **Suit Against Transphobic Landlord Moves Forward**

by Doug Windsor

365Gay.com Newscenter, New York Bureau

(New York City) A judge has freed the way for the Hispanic AIDS Forum, New York's largest Latino AIDS service provider, to proceed to trial in a case against its former landlord for transgender discrimination. HAF, represented by the ACLU, brought suit against its former landlord for illegal eviction after the landlord complained that HAF's transgender clients were using the "wrong" bathrooms and banished all transgender people from the common areas of the building.

"It is unfortunate that the bathroom has once again become a battleground in the fight for equal rights," said James Esseks, Litigation Director of the ACLU's AIDS Project. "The landlord's decision to exclude transgender people from the bathrooms and common areas was just as wrong today as it was 50 years ago when business owners in the South tried to force African Americans to use separate bathrooms."

The court's ruling rejects a motion by the landlord who claimed that transgender people are not protected by the state's civil rights laws and concurs with other New York courts in interpreting the state's civil rights law to include protections for transgender people.

This is the first lawsuit under New York's civil rights law that has dealt with the issue of which bathrooms are appropriate for transgender people to use. After this lawsuit was filed, New York City amended its civil rights law to provide explicit coverage for transgender people.

"By allowing this case to go forward, the judge has rightly recognized that transgender people are protected under New York State's civil rights law," said Kesari Ruza, of Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, which is litigating the case with the ACLU as cooperating attorneys. "Transgender people no longer have to fear being fired from their jobs, kicked out of their homes or being mistreated by businesses and agencies that serve the public."

The suit on behalf of HAF was filed in June 2001 after the agency was forced out of its home of 10 years in Jackson Heights, Queens - an epicenter of the AIDS epidemic in U.S. Latino communities - because the landlord yielded to complaints from another tenant that the agency's transgender clients were using the "wrong" restrooms. HAF says it repeatedly tried to negotiate with the landlord to reach an agreement that would be acceptable to all parties over the use of the restrooms, but the landlord refused to renew the lease, saying he didn't even want the transgender clients in any of the common areas of the building.

"I'm relieved that the judge has agreed to give us our day in court," said Heriberto Sanchez Soto, Executive Director of HAF. "As is all too often the case when people resort to hate and intolerance, the consequences of the landlord's actions went far beyond the target of his bigotry. Because we were forced to relocate, many of our clients with HIV and AIDS are forced to travel much further for treatment."

## **AGING SEX-CHANGE DOCTOR SEEKING INSURER**

TRINIDAD, Colo. (AP) - Stanley Biber, one of the few doctors in the nation who performs sex-reassignment surgeries, is having trouble buying malpractice insurance. "I guess they think I'm too old," said Biber, 80.

Medical coverage companies consider any practicing surgeon older than 65 to fall into a high-risk category, said Karen Reese, an independent agent with Houston-based Professional Medical Insurance Services, a brokerage company that matches clients and insurance companies. Reese said she worked with nine companies to try to help Biber, whose base of operations is Mount San Rafael Hospital. "All of the markets I checked with who would have insured him said his age and types of operations he performs made him too much of a risk," she said.

Biber's previous insurer, St. Paul's Insurance Co., has moved out of state, and he has found no replacement. "I might be able to pick up some insurance just to keep my (medical) practice going, but I can't do any surgeries without it," said Biber, who has been practicing for 50 years. "For my transsexual work, they want to put me into a high-risk category. The premium would be \$200,000 to \$300,000 a year. How in the hell am I going to be able to pay that?" Biber said. He said he had paid St. Paul \$40,000 a year.

Reese said insurers considered the fact that Biber had never been sued by any of his former sex change patients or had any die on the operating table. Still, only one company offered to insure him as a general practitioner surgeon, at \$75,000 a year "just starting out."

Biber said he hasn't operated on anyone for the past 2 1/2 months because companies are reluctant to offer him malpractice insurance. "I'm in tremendous physical condition, the best physical condition you can imagine. I work out every day and I've had no physical problems," Biber said. "I'm still hoping I can pick up some insurance so I can continue working."

## **NTAC ANNOUNCES TRANSGENDER NEEDS ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE**

In an effort to better understand the needs of transgender communities nationwide, NTAC is beginning a series of needs assessment studies around the country. These studies will be initiated and run in small and large cities with the direct help and organization of NTAC members. The goal of the effort is to obtain accurate, unbiased information about the community's needs and character, in part to counter the damaging, unscientific rhetoric of detractors.

"The aim is really to get clean, direct data from our communities independent of political goals," said Julie Maverick, NTAC Vice Chair. "We have too little information on who our communities are and what are their most pressing needs."

"This can help localities of all sizes nationwide focus on their core needs. Moreover" added Maverick, who also chairs the Research Committee in NTAC, "we have long wanted to generate new, accurate data to support our lobbying effort and provide information for national level studies."

Individual groups and agencies in a community will conduct the study after approval of their board. At that time, researchers will survey and interview the transgender community directly. Each study will begin with a standardized survey, but can amend or change the survey to address specific problems in their region (e.g., language, drug use).

Within this framework, NTAC members will work on the ground to help initiate, organize, and conduct the surveys. Professional researchers will then take the results and reduce the data to understand its significance. The goal is unbiased, publishable, scholarly research that can be used by local and national organizations for their lobbying.

"This initiative begins in the shadow of such atrocious pronouncements about our community as Senator Rick Santorum's (R, PA) outbursts and the questionable results of Dr. Ray Blanchard's research portrayed in Professor J. Michael Bailey's book, "The Man Who Would Be Queen." Maverick commented. "We need accurate scientific and statistical information to properly refute political nonsense and incomplete scientific results as well as to draw attention to the deep, troubling needs that exist throughout the nation."

Three surveys are set to begin soon: one in Connecticut and the other two in Olympia and Seattle areas of Washington State. Other studies are planned, including one possible study in Houston as well as other locations. For more information, please contact the NTAC Research Committee at [research@ntac.org](mailto:research@ntac.org)

# Two Sides of a Story...

## FACING LIFE IN WRONG BODY LEADS TO BOTCHED CASTRATION

By Ann Belser, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Catherine Watson's desire is so simple. "I just want to be normal," she said. Normal, however, is an elusive goal for her, and for many others like her. Watson, 45, of McKeesport, was born a boy. By 9 years old, she said, she knew her gender was wrong and started to dress in girl's clothing. She switched schools and her records from male to female. She never matured as a man: She has neither a protruding Adam's apple nor facial hair, but she did still have male sex organs. Her desire to remove those last vestiges of her masculine identity led her to botched castration surgery performed in her home two weeks ago by a man who passed himself off as a doctor. He has been charged with aggravated assault for the incident which nearly killed her.

The often frantic drive by transsexuals for a sex-change operation is well understood by Randi Ettner, a psychologist in Illinois and the author of the book "Confessions of a Gender Defender: A Psychologist's Reflections on Life Among the Transgendered." "I think everybody who has this condition feels desperate," she said.

Dr. Sheila Kirk, the research director of Persad Center, a counseling service that caters to gay, lesbian and transgendered clients, said the fact that Watson was able to overlook clues that the man who performed the surgery was not who he said he was shows how anxious she was to have the procedure done. "This is an individual who needs to be looked at with a measure of concern and consideration," Kirk said. "She's not ... trying to do anything but put herself in a better place."

Transgendered people typically know as children they are in the wrong bodies, but when they start to act as the person who they really feel they are, they are usually shamed back into their gender roles, Ettner said. "It's a terrible, terrible, constant, horrible, shameful secret," she said. It also leads to isolation and loneliness. "They cannot have a best friend, because you tell your best friend everything," Ettner said. "It's just torture to feel so different."

Ettner describes Watson as a primary transsexual: Someone who knew at a very early age that her body did not conform to her self-image. For Watson, one of the most upsetting aspects of the recent ordeal is that she has been referred to as a man in the police report and news accounts. "I'm legally a female," she said. Her name has been legally changed and her driver's license reflects that she is a woman. She will not say the name that her parents gave her when she was born a boy, saying that he is gone and she is Cathy now.

Watson grew up in California. Her sister, Terri, was a hermaphrodite who committed suicide when she was 28 years old. According to Watson, the two girls and their mother had been abandoned by their father, who told them he didn't want to live with "a bunch of freaks." Her mother remarried and had two other daughters from whom Watson is now estranged. She was working, most recently as a waitress and pizza delivery person, but has lost both those jobs. She's afraid she will not work again as long as people recognize her from this experience.

She's just under 5 feet, 10 inches tall, and slightly heavy at 187 pounds, with long, strawberry blond hair and glasses. To help with her appearance, she has had makeup tattooed to her lips, eyes and eyebrows. She had previously scheduled sexual reassignment surgery at a Pittsburgh hospital, she said, but did not have enough money to cover the full \$17,000 fee.

Then one morning in July, she caught sight of herself, naked in the mirror, her body not matching the person she knew herself to be. "I broke down. I started crying," she said. "I didn't want to live like this anymore." She put a notice on an Internet bulletin board seeking anyone who could help her. Doug Lenhart answered her plea. He told her he was a doctor, she said, who was licensed in Kansas but not in Pennsylvania. "I wanted this so bad," she said. "He got me totally at ease."

Watson said he gave her his home telephone number and she talked to a woman who said she was his wife. First she thought she was going to a day surgery center, then a hotel, then he told her he would perform the procedure in her home, she said. "As far as I knew, he was a doctor, just not licensed in Pennsylvania," she said. He took her money, \$200 with the promise of \$600 later in payments, she said. "I almost backed out of it, but he offered me something that I needed."

On Sept. 12, they set up a makeshift operating room. Watson sat in her dining room on a club chair that had been draped in plastic. The surgical tools were laid out on a table. Lenhart numbed the area and started to cut. "I kept going in and out of consciousness because of the pain," she said. She also was bleeding profusely. That's when her partner, who was there to support her, called for an ambulance. Lenhart, she said, grabbed his stuff and left before the police or an ambulance could arrive. She spent the next two days at UPMC

Presbyterian. "It never would have crossed my mind that this man would lie to me and tell me he was a doctor," she said.

McKeesport police have charged Lenhart with aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and unauthorized practice of medicine. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for Oct. 6. Lenhart's attorney, James Wymard, did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

For transsexuals contemplating any level of sexual reassignment surgery, cost can be a huge factor, Ettner said. "If you're a transsexual, you have to be a rich transsexual. You have to have electrolysis. You have to have [psychiatric] therapy. You have to have surgery, and all of these procedures are cash dependent," she said. The surgery is not covered by health insurance because it is deemed to be cosmetic surgery. For some transsexuals, it can add up to \$45,000.

The International Foundation for Gender Education, based in Waltham, Mass., estimates there are nearly 2,000 sexual reassignment surgeries performed each year. Watson still wants to complete her sexual reconstruction. She also wants her life to calm down. "I want to heal. I want this to be over with. I want the final surgery."

## Man to Stand Trial in Castration

By DAN NEPHIN, The Associated Press

McKEESPORT, Pa. (AP) - A man who police said posed as a doctor and performed a castration on a transgendered woman was ordered to stand trial, even though his attorney said the man did her a favor and that she didn't want him prosecuted. Catherine Watson, 45, appeared ambivalent when McKeesport District Justice Thomas Brletic asked her if she wanted to prosecute Doug Lenhart. "I don't want him to do this again.... I don't think he's capable," Watson, weeping, said during Lenhart's preliminary hearing Monday. She said she nearly bled to death from the Sept. 12 procedure, which was performed on the dining room table of her McKeesport home in suburban Pittsburgh.

Though Watson didn't answer Brletic's question directly, Shanicka Kennedy, assistant district attorney for Allegheny County, said Watson's wishes were irrelevant because the state was prosecuting. Lenhart, 48, of Lower Burrell, was held for trial on charges of aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and unauthorized practice of medicine and surgery. "Is this a case of compassion or predator? I don't know, but we're going to find out," Brletic said.

Watson testified that she is a transgendered woman who became "Catherine" when she was 6 years old. She began looking for someone to perform a castration after the doctor who was to perform sexual reassignment surgery earlier this year told her he wanted several thousand dollars more, she said. "I just wanted to solve my problem," she said, describing herself as "desperate." She found Lenhart through the Internet and agreed to pay him \$800, with some of the money up front and the rest in installments. He told her he was a doctor, but not licensed in Pennsylvania, and had performed 23 other castrations, she said.

Lenhart doesn't have a medical license. His attorney, James Waynard, said Lenhart has a doctorate and two masters degrees, but he wouldn't say in what. He also said Lenhart had "some experience in this area" and said he felt Lenhart was qualified to perform the procedure. Lenhart declined comment.

Watson said she was awake throughout the procedure. She said Lenhart told her to have something to drink and take over the counter pain medication beforehand, then sprayed her with "something to dull the pain." Watson said Lenhart's instruments weren't sharp and that she was in "horrible pain" and screaming as the procedure went on. She said she felt herself bleeding internally and became scared as he reopened her sutures to try to stop the bleeding.

Watson said Lenhart told her he was "having problems" and she had her partner call for an ambulance, at which point Lenhart "packed his stuff and left." She said she spent a day and a half in a hospital. "I heard one of the doctors say, 'We're losing her,'" she said. Under cross-examination, Watson said that Lenhart "did do what I asked him to do." Watson said she didn't recall telling Lenhart to leave before the ambulance arrived because she didn't want him to get involved, but admitted she may have.

Waynard unsuccessfully sought to have the aggravated assault charge dismissed, but conceded there was enough evidence for the other charges. He said Lenhart didn't act with recklessness or an intent to cause serious bodily injury, an element of aggravated assault. "He did this to help her," Waynard said. "She was going to do this herself." Lenhart "did this, really, in my opinion, as an act of kindness and charity," Waynard said.

# Takin' Care of Biz...

## STATEMENT OF TGSF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND EQUITY

as of 25 October 2003

### Assets

Cash .....	\$4,009.50
Event Equipment .....	
Decorations .....	\$1,000.00
Food Service .....	\$200.00
Office Supplies .....	\$50.00

Total Assets ..... \$5,259.50

### Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable .....	\$3,686.50
Equity .....	\$1,573.00

Total Liabilities and Equity ..... \$5,259.50

## Statement of TGSF Income

### Revenue

Memberships .....	\$365.00
Donations .....	\$273.00
Advertising .....	\$166.67
Halloween Party .....	\$1,222.24
Total .....	\$2,026.91

### Expenses

Cotillion .....	\$600.00
Newsletter .....	\$317.18
Operations .....	\$49.52
Miscellaneous .....	\$168.47
Total .....	\$1,135.17

Net Income ..... \$891.74

## TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give  
as of October 15, 2003

Universalist Unitarian Church ... \$268.00

Jamie Fenton ..... \$200.00

**Thank You, and Bless You for Caring!**

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Submissions can be made online directly.  
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## TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

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# Reviews!

## Ship Shapely: A Warm San Francisco Night Aboard The S.S. Trannyshack

BY SILKE TUDOR, SF Weekly

To my relief, finding the berth for the S.S. Trannyshack proves easier than getting an eyeful of ass at the Folsom Street Fair. Three lofty queens stand in front of the pier under a streetlight like a trio of misguided polystyrene sirens. Their role, they say, is unintentional, but they are nonetheless alluring: Strands of their synthetic, fluorescent hair glimmer in the lamplight and flutter around their faces like cotton candy caught in a hot airstream, and their pastel evening gowns whip against their knobby knees in the salty wind. It's a sight for bleeding eyes. "Oooh, goody!" exclaims one as a pod of would-be sailors in uniform approaches. "Look, seeemen!"

The sailors chuckle, one of them drawing on charm school with a nod of his head and tip of his hat, before his crew rounds the corner of a nearby building and is engulfed by the awaiting absurdity: folks in ball gowns, peacoats, bikinis, tutus, wet suits, leisure suits, swimming goggles, tiaras, flip-flops, fishnets (some with fish inside), hot pants, aerated pants, duct pants, lobster pinners, tank tops, sequins, and everything in between and out of left field.

"Ahhh, my people," says Audra Angeli-Morse, a third-generation San Franciscan, hustling down the gangplank amid the crush of the primped, preened, and pumped.

According to an earlier missive from our formidable hostess, Heklina, the sailing of the fourth annual S.S. Trannyshack does not honor tranny-time, which might account for the absence of some regular "Trannyshack" faces as the ship pushes off at 10 p.m. and heads into the bay. Still, there is no lack of inspired ferocity aboard. By the time the captain of our vessel begins his safety announcements, a process he must repeat because DJ Pinky Ring is already deep into the spin cycle (not because we all have dicks in our ears, as Seattle resident Graham Hayes suggests), the bar staff is looking worse for wear, and the top deck is awash with *jeu d'esprit*: insightful fashion analysis, impromptu lap dances, shoe envy and theft, and reunion make-out sessions. Despite the twinkling starscape and the resounding pleasure of watching the San Francisco skyline unfurl on a clear autumn night, the upper decks empty faster than a sack of seed punctured by a loose underwire bra when the floor show is announced.

On the boat or off, the show is the reason to attend "Trannyshack." On the first deck, which is actually too low for most trannies to safely wear heels, dykes, fags, and hags are, literally, swinging from the rafters, and the walls are sweating with pheromones. "Is it just me, or do you get drunker on a boat?" asks a man in camo capris and silver pumps. "It's just the anticipation," says his companion as the "Muppet Show Theme" begins to play over the loudspeaker, causing a noticeable surge of exhilaration in the crowd.

After a brief announcement by Heklina, the intro to the Animals' "Warm San Francisco Night" heralds the opening number — a rhapsodic medley with a civic pride theme, including the Go-Go's "This Town" and the schoolhouse classic "San Francisco" — performed by Miss Chocolate, Trannyshack's historically bashful ticket taker, who is accompanied by two faux queens dressed as the San Francisco twins Vivian and Marian Brown.

The next number, a slapstick lip-sync of Heart's "Crazy on You" starring Heklina (with the much-battered Suppositori Spelling and Eva Lynn Side as backup), is cut short by a power failure that happily sends Heklina into a razor-wire temper tantrum. This is something of a boon for the audience; her rage elicits such delightful commands as "Get the fuck off my microphone, bitch!" and "Can you put the spotlight on my face, not on my cunt? The spotlight you have in your hand. The one that is pointing at my pussy. Raise it for Christ's sake!" And, my personal favorite, "He's too nelly, but I ate his ass anyway."


A rim job is, in fact, the only thing that promises to put Heklina back in seafaring spirits. Thankfully there is a willing sailor aboard, and, after Heklina has publicly sampled his proffered posterior, she seems more herself. It's not surprising. Heklina is known for requiring such emergency prophylactic measures. What is surprising is Renttecca's virulent treatment of Me First & the Gimme Gimmes' rendition of "Natural Woman," which concludes with Renttecca's face buried in the vagina of a real live girl. "She did it," says Joshua Grannell, the alter ego of Peaches Christ. "You could see the look in her eye after she was finished. It was like, 'What the fuck?' She actually shocked herself."

"What would the S.S. Trannyshack be without a seafood buffet?" offers Heklina, already working on the segue. "Speaking of fish ... the next performer is one of our favorite faux queens of all time ... Trixie Carr." The show — including Putanesca's brilliant, overstuffed, gacked-out version of Tina Turner; an inadvertent guest appearance by the art-damaged Squeaky Blonde, looking

## Movie Review by Alessandro D'Amico

### GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS

Special to 365gay.com

It feels a little bit like seeing a movie with Joan Crawford, Judie Garland and Bette Davis. You get this feeling that you're watching giants at work and your eyes and ears are afraid you'll miss a witty repartee or a 'telling' frame. Or... is it like watching the first season of Charlie's Angels with Jadlyn Smith, Farrah Fawcett-Majors and Kate Jackson, the hair is flawless, the décor is kitschy and the whole feeling is over-camp!?!  


Either way, if I tell you that *Girls will be Girls* is an Instant Classic I'm not exaggerating. Jack Plotnick ("Gods and Monsters," "Down With Love") Clinton Leupp (known for his character Miss Coco Peru) and Jeffery Roberson (known for his character Varla Jean Merman) give outstanding performances in a movie you'll soon be quoting to your friends: "Coco I've had more children pulled out of me than a burning orphanage" tells Evie to Coco when asked if she's ever had an abortion.

Richard Day's *Girls will be Girls* is the tale of three actresses at various places on the Hollywood food chain, navigating the minefield of love, aging and ambition. And yes, those three actresses are all played by men! An actress is nothing without a meaty part ponders the movie poster, with good reason.

Evie, an aging actress in the twilight of her career, drinks her way through the day, longing to jump-start her career and any man in the vicinity. Her roommate and verbal punching bag, Coco, only yearns for one thing: to have a child with the doctor that disappeared from her life many, many years ago. And then there's Varla, a naïve country girl with a bit of an eating disorder and her own dreams of making it as an actress. When she unexpectedly joins the household, all of their aspirations and sordid pasts come to an unforgettable boiling point. This is a movie that dares take you to places you don't think it will. When it gets there, it goes a little further and then manages you to surprise you once more! The twists and turns are totally over the top and thanks to the acting from the three leads and tight direction from Richard Day it all works well.

And then there's Ron Matthews! Yes, he plays a guy. He's cute; he looks amazing with his shirt off and you totally root for him as the romantic interest. He also pulls a 'Boogie Nights' in the movie that will have you laugh so hard you'll cry!

It's All About Evie and Whatever Happened to What's-her-name? all mixed up for your delight in a "Specia-mercial" from hell. Once you see this movie, you'll never look at a movie classic the same way. The reference for classic camp has just been lifted one notch higher!

## PISSR

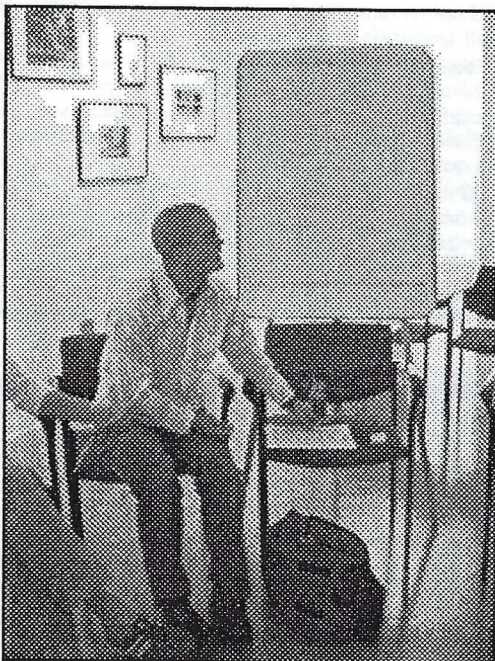
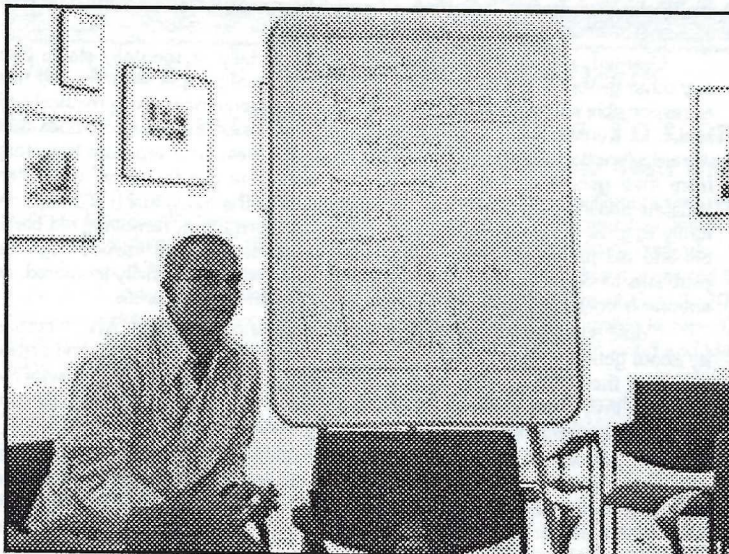
### People In Search of Safe Restrooms

PISSR is committed to establishing gender-neutral bathrooms. We believe that all people, regardless of their gender identification or presentation, have the right to access safe and dignified restroom facilities without fear of harassment, judgment, or violence. General meetings are always the first Monday of the month; 7 pm at 870 Market Street (Flood Building), 4th floor in San Francisco.

like the Creature From the Glamour Lagoon, during Vinsantos' touching tribute to Antony & the Johnsons; and a disturbing Flipper impression performed by Buttlicka while holding her false teeth in a glass and wearing flippers, goggles, an armor-plated breastplate, and a fishing net — ends all too early, albeit with time enough to catch last call at the bar before docking.

On deck, Heklina and Grannell coo over the swelling belly of Crickett Bardot, who is no longer dressed as one of the Brown sisters. "The baby's first photo shoot is next week," announces Bardot, "but we aren't going to find out the sex. Either way, it'll be a tranny, so what does it matter?"

*Continued from Page 14*



*Dylan Vade discusses Transgender Legal Issues at the Transgender Law Center.*



receive. But we seem to raise funds only when we need them. We need to make this an ongoing effort.

Unity. I won't rehash some of the sorry feuds you have read about elsewhere. We can accomplish a hell of a lot by working together instead of against each other. However, I have noticed little of the "gender apartheid" in TGSF and I think we do a great job of working together regardless of where we are on the gender spectrum.

Obtain a beer booth at San Francisco Pride. This is an untapped gold mine that could really provide us with some needed funds. I have a friend that is involved in another community and was green with envy when she noted that they raised \$5000 at their booth. What that wouldn't have done for us! Let's get going on this as soon as we can.

Increase involvement. We have had good participation from many individuals for our projects. But more people need to be involved so that the workload is not unfairly shared. I also need ExCom members who are committed to attending each meeting when possible.

Get out of debt. The more we spend paying down debt the less we can spend on programs for our members. That is why fundraising is so important.

Staggered Ex-Com terms. I know this requires a bylaws change but one of the things that many people have noticed is that we have a lot of turnover on the ExCom. Seven of our ten positions on the ExCom were staffed by new people and one of those (Susan) was in a different position. It takes at least six months for all of us to get up to speed. I thought that we could make the ExCom positions two years. The terms of the President and Secretary and each of the co-chairs would be up for one election, the terms of the Vice-President, Treasurer and other co-chairs would be up in another election. In that fashion, we could be guaranteed that we would retain a 50% holdover rate in each ExCom. This would provide us with some continuity and some institutional memory.

Legacy for Gwen Araujo. Gwen's murder was a horrific tragedy and touched many of us. But we have spent a year mourning her and it is time to create a lasting legacy. We need to move beyond the death and think of how we can help the living. We need to support HIV awareness and prevention programs like the Tri-Cities Health Center and the Transpowerment Program. We need to work to get and support counselors in the schools who are trained in gender issues. We need to be able to reach out to young people. We need to educate ourselves in personal protection and awareness. If we can make progress in these areas, then Gwen's death will not have been in vain.

Cotillion 2005. I already have the theme in mind and would like to start planning as soon as we put Cotillion 2004 to bed.

Does this plan for next year hint that I am interested in running for another term? In a word, the answer is yes. I believe in this organization and in what it stands for and in the people it serves. I have been one of them.

I believe that we have accomplished so much and can accomplish so much more. The last six months have been wonderful and I look forward to the next six months. As we have said in our theme for Cotillion 2004, "Come together".

**Significant Other Support - East Bay**

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (925) 937-8432, e-mail [julie39@attbi.com](mailto:julie39@attbi.com) or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

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Is it science because he says it is? Certainly Dr. Bailey does make statements throughout the text that ring true to our own experience and assumptions, such as "Coming out as gay to others, or even to oneself, sometimes takes time..." (p. 19). He also makes some intriguing statements, such as "Men's category-specific pattern of sexual arousal is probably important in developing their sexual orientation. The experience of intense sexual arousal to one sex or the other, but not to both, is a powerful source of information" (p.94). I only wish he had given us more real information in the form of citations of further studies or sources that corroborate the information he purports to be reporting.

In his preface, Dr. Bailey writes: "Butch women are fascinating, too, and [he has] studied them. ... Butch women are not simply the opposite of femme men. ... Masculine females deserve their own book." That feels like being put on notice! He also says his book is concerned with transsexual sexuality, but is Dr. Bailey giving transsexual sexuality the attention it deserves, as he claims to be doing? What is his book about? Is it about "the science of gender-bending and transsexualism," as the subtitle implies, or is it about transsexual sexuality, as the preface states? Or is it about Dr. Bailey's interpretation of something he calls "transsexual sexuality," something that he does not define, perhaps because he can't?

Readers cannot know, because Bailey has not made a commitment to a scientific topic. He wants us to believe these people he tells us about are his bailiwick (he is so expert, he tells us many times, that he only needs to look at some of them to know exactly what their childhood was like and what their future will be), but how can we trust someone who sees only what he wants to see?

He does write positively about sexuality, however, and I must applaud his approach in some respects. He acknowledges and criticizes the inability or unwillingness of society and government to deal realistically with childhood sexual development, and he touches on the complexities of social and biological factors that affect human beings as they grow and come to terms with who they are as individuals. But is it enough to tout one's gay friends and occasional attractions to tranny girls? Is that redemptive enough to counter the net result of this book, which is to pronounce: Trans people have always existed; the stereotypes society has of them are true, but we don't have to be so afraid of them because some of them are nice and attractive people in spite of their transness and the exigencies of their childhood experience. That is the primary message underneath the superior tone of Bailey's words, a tone that shifts from patronizing to salacious and back again.

If Bailey were to employ the same logic and tone to write about those masculine females he's studied, we would have first the presentation of a typical tomboy with one supportive parent and one ambivalent one. We'd then be led into a review of the literature, which would most likely rely on the work of Leslie Lothstein and Robert Stoller, perhaps with a nod to Holly (but not Aaron) Devor.

As we traversed the erotic territory between childhood gender variance and adult transsexualism, we would drift through a few tenets of feminism that Bailey might interpret as encouraging women with ambivalence or even hatred toward men to become lesbians.

Perhaps we'd visit some lesbian bars and even be treated to a drag king show. At last we would hear about some men who had been born in female bodies, some whom he might find pathetic parodies of men and some he finds so convincing as men that they even cause our intrepid scientist/author to question (but only for a moment) his belief that they are still women.

For that is the unstated, unquestioned underlying assumption in "The Man Who Would Be Queen": that the presumption of Y chromosomal material and the presence of male genitalia are the determinants of maleness, hence a presumable lack of Y and presence of female genitalia determines femaleness, and these states cannot be changed. And further, that sexual drives and social expectations of gender-based behavior and individuals' ability or inability to "measure up" is the primary reason people attempt to live as the opposite sex.

There is no scientific basis for this theory, no matter how much assumption or projection one invokes as an attempt at proof. This theory is nothing more than a social agreement. In fact, it is this same social agreement that allows transsexual people who go through the prescribed course of treatment to be adjudicated members of their new sex, with some or all (depending on the jurisdiction) of the attendant rights and privileges.

On page 201, Dr. Bailey praises the "very conservative real-life experience requirement" of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Canada and states it "is motivated by a concern for genetic females who want to become men" arising from the irreversible effects of testosterone. Rather than be accused of gender bias, Bailey tells us, Dr. Blanchard holds transsexuals in both directions

to the same requirements. This sounds like scapegoating to me. Testosterone actually introduces fewer health-risk factors than estrogen does. Is Bailey trying to imply that transsexual people must be protected from their own self-awareness?

Granted, not all transsexual people are socially or mentally stable (like any other group), but I suspect that if all transsexual people were treated first as responsible adults and counseled about the consequences, both medical and social, of transsexual treatment, whatever aspects of their personalities that were dysfunctional could be dealt with, in most cases, on a separate trajectory from their gender issues. In fact, dealing with "the gender issue" can often facilitate dealing with other complicating issues as the individual has an opportunity to grow through her or his personal transformation, removing old barriers and old patterns from lived experience, while certainly introducing new problems to deal with for which the patient can only be partially prepared, as anyone is only partially prepared for the events of her or his life.

Could it be that for people like Drs. Bailey and Blanchard, whose curiosity about gender variance is primarily driven by interest in sexuality and sexual behavior, there is a fixation on the erotic charge inspired by any behavior? Is that why they so vehemently discount any other explanation than their own theories for transgender and/or transsexual experience?

It is this writer's opinion that sexism is a large part of what fuels the fear of gender variance. Merge sexism with a sense of moral superiority in the belief that biology is destiny and you have nothing more than essentialism. For those who think that the purpose of one's body is to tell others who we are and what place we have in society, the fear and loathing of people who fall outside conventional norms runs very close to the surface of their potentially volatile psyches.

Bailey touches on this when he talks about the risks for young men of revealing a homosexual orientation (p. 35) and acknowledges the kind of fear inspired by confrontations with such rigid beliefs, and he seems to want to fight against this convention. But he makes only a halfhearted attempt to urge change in the status quo.

The real damage Bailey's book could do is undermine the recent efforts of some legislatures and courts to validate the lived experience of gender-variant people — transsexual or not — when our opponents hold it up as validating the stigmas and social bias against gay and lesbian people, even though Bailey claims his own attitudes are not anti-homosexual or anti-feminine. Bailey may very well be as egalitarian as he positions himself to be, but his reported "science" supports a position of social disapproval of both sex- and gender-variance from presumed norms because, in spite of the occasional compassionate sentiment or flattering comment on their appearance, he continually characterizes his subjects as easily analyzed, simply categorized, defective, sex-obsessed damaged goods.

Some people tell me that J. Michael Bailey is a very nice guy, that I'd probably like him if I met him. That may very well be true — I'd be willing to give him a chance, personally. But his book panders to popular misconceptions about all transgendered people, and those women who shared their stories with him thinking he was a friend (some claim he did not inform them he was doing research when he met them in Chicago's tranny bars) have every right to complain. This is not science; it's just a very small Baileywick.

I do not believe this book will become a classic text. Though it may be cited by some anti-trans and anti-gay lobbyists concerned with reinforcing notions of the danger of acknowledging or encouraging gender variance in children, it cannot ultimately carry the authority it claims. Trying to make a "popular" book, Bailey cut too many scientific corners. Trying to make a "science" book out of personal opinion, and adventure stories out of his interviews, undercuts the authority Bailey might have had in his academic position.

I am also fervently opposed to censorship. I think Dr. Bailey has every right to create his text and disseminate it. It should be read and discussed. The author should not be shouted down at presentations, nor should he be barred from making appearances. He does have some ideas that are worthwhile, and no idea is so threatening that a rational person cannot analyze it, discern its flaws, engage in respectful debate and persuade others to see their own rationale. This is how knowledge is advanced. Dr. Bailey's "popular science" approach may end up a stepping-stone to the truth about femininity in male-bodied people. It isn't the end of the road.

### Transcending Transgender

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pm to 7:30 pm. Food and snacks will be provided.



# Remember Gwen Amber Rose Araujo!



## One Year Since Transgender Teen's Death

### GWEN'S FAMILY STILL STRUGGLING TO COPE

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer

A year after Gwen Araujo was beaten to death when partygoers discovered she was biologically male, the slaying of the transgender teenager has devastated her family and prompted much soul-searching in her hometown of Newark.

Araujo, 17, was kicked, beaten in the head with a shovel and strangled by a rope at a home in the southern Alameda County city the night of Oct. 3, 2002. For two weeks, as rumors swirled through town, nobody called police to report the slaying of the youth, who was born Edward Araujo but had been living and identifying as a woman.

Araujo's body was later found in a shallow grave in the Sierra foothills. Three men are to go on trial March 15 on charges of murder and a hate-crime enhancement, while a fourth pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and is expected to testify against his friends.

"It's been a year, but still the pain is very intense," Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, 39, said Thursday. "Not a day goes by that I don't think about the horrific murder of Gwen. Her body may have been taken away, but they haven't taken away her spirit."

Araujo's slaying drew national attention and galvanized the small bedroom community into action, with calls to prevent hate violence against people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender.

"It's certainly been a huge wake-up call, not only one year later, a time to mourn our loss for Gwen, but it's an opportune moment to raise awareness and visibility of issues affecting gay Latinos and the transgender community," said Eddie Gutierrez, a spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination.

The past year has been difficult for Araujo's family and friends, especially Guerrero, who has attended nearly every court hearing and put on a strong face despite hearing grisly details of Araujo's last moments. Since Araujo died, Guerrero said she has broken up with her boyfriend of more than four years, seen her best friend move back to Mexico and lost her job as a legal assistant at a San Jose law firm because she couldn't concentrate.

Her 13-year-old son, Brandon, who used to earn straight A's in school, "failed almost every class" after Araujo was killed and has moved to Virginia to live with his father, said David Guerrero, 32, Araujo's uncle. Sylvia Guerrero copes by making silk flower baskets adorned with butterflies, one of Araujo's favorite creatures. She released 17 monarch butterflies at Araujo's memorial service last year. Araujo was cremated, and her ashes are in an urn Guerrero keeps in her home.

"Everyone should hug their children, because tomorrow is not promised to any of us," she said. She quoted a favorite line of Araujo's: "Live as though this is your last day."

On Thursday, Guerrero accepted an award in Araujo's honor from the Horizons Foundation, a lesbian, gay and transgender group in San Francisco, which also announced the establishment of a fund that will award grants to Bay Area school programs that promote understanding of transgender people. "It's been ups and downs. There are good times and bad times," David Guerrero said. "We're just trying to stay focused and make sure we attend the trial. Hopefully, we'll have closure then."

Gloria Allred, a Los Angeles attorney representing the family, agreed, saying, "It's been a very tough year. It's difficult to think of a tragedy worse than the murder of one's own child."

Dave Smith, Newark's mayor of 25 years, said he was shocked and saddened by Araujo's slaying, which thrust the city of 43,500 into the national spotlight. The killing came as Newark Memorial High School prepared for its performance of "The Laramie Project," a play about gay college student Matthew Shepard, who was beaten and left to die in Laramie, Wyo.

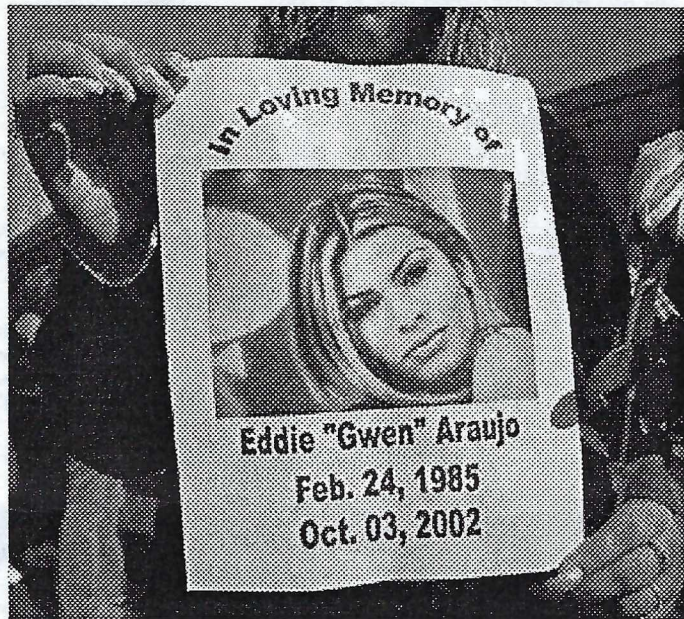
"It was actually scheduled prior to this. All of a sudden, in the middle of it, we became Laramie," Smith said. "That's a jolt to any community." Smith said the city is working with a grassroots group called "Not in Newark" to take steps that include training city employees to respond to anti-gay harassment.

Prosecutors say Araujo had engaged in sexual acts with at least two of the defendants going back several weeks before the slaying. Authorities said Michael Magidson, Jason Cazares and Jose Merel, all 23, killed Araujo after learning of her gender at Merel's house. They loaded her body into Magidson's truck before dumping it near a campground in El Dorado County, police said.

Jaron Nabors, 20, later led police to the site. In exchange for his guilty plea to voluntary manslaughter and a promise to testify at the trial, Nabors is expected to receive an 11-year sentence.

"He's expressed great sorrow over the tragedy and, in retrospect, maybe he could have done something to avoid the death," Nabors' attorney, Robert Beles of Oakland, said Thursday.

Jack Noonan, Merel's attorney, said of his client, "He is very remorseful about the whole thing. It's unfortunate. What else can you say?"



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### ONLINE SO LIST!

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only - no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. Write to Cheryl at [triss\\_family@yahoo.com](mailto:triss_family@yahoo.com) and explain a little about your situation.

# Remember Gwen Amber Rose Araujo!

## FAMILY OF SLAIN TG TEEN TRIES TO HOLD TOGETHER

By Robert Airoidi, STAFF WRITER, Oakland Tribune

NEWARK — Nothing can compare to the death of her child; nonetheless, the losses continue to mount for Sylvia Guerrero. Since the brutal slaying of Eddie “Gwen” Araujo, Guerrero has lost her high-paying job as a legal assistant for a San Jose law firm, because of an inability to concentrate. She and her boyfriend have ended their relationship. Her best friend has moved back to Mexico. And her 13-year-old son Brandon has moved out of state to live with his father.

“He was having a hard time,” she said of the boy who once earned straight A’s, but who, after the death of his sibling, failed every course. As the first anniversary of Araujo’s death approaches, Guerrero said she thinks about the slaying every day.

“The pain is so deep,” she said. “Nothing can take away the pain.” Sylvia Guerrero said her transgender child had decided to undergo a sex change operation. She supported the teen’s choice of identity and remained involved in her child’s life. “She’s devastated,” said Imelda Guerrero, Araujo’s aunt. “You can’t really understand unless it happens to you.”

Fremont resident Michael Magidson and Newark residents Jason Cazares and Jose Merel, all 23, face one count each of murder with a hate-crime enhancement in the slaying of Araujo, who according to police and court testimony was beaten to death after an Oct. 3, 2002, party at Merel’s Newark home. The trial is scheduled to start in March.

Magidson, Cazares and Merel face 25 years to life in state prison, with an additional four years for the hate-crime enhancement. A fourth defendant, Jaron Nabors, 20, initially faced similar charges, but he pleaded guilty in February to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for providing testimony against his three friends. After the trial, he will be sentenced to 11 years in prison.

According to testimony during a preliminary hearing earlier this year, Araujo, 17, was killed in the early morning hours of Oct. 4, after Merel and Magidson — who had sexual relations with the teen — became upset when they learned Araujo was biologically male. The four men buried the body early the next morning in the Sierra foothills east of Placerville, the records say. The killing shocked the community, sparked outrage throughout the country and prompted gay rights organizations to send representatives to the Bay Area to show solidarity.

### Name Change Sought

The Guerrero family on Saturday privately honored the memory of Araujo, whom they now refer to as **Gwen Amber Rose Araujo**. Amber Rose was the name Sylvia Guerrero gave Eddie before the child was born, believing she was having a girl. She has changed the name on the urn and is petitioning the court to change the name on the death certificate. It’s not just Araujo’s mother who struggles with the senseless death. The teen’s family struggles daily with the violent way the teen died.

“We’re all still dealing with (Araujo’s death) on a day-to-day basis,” said Imelda Guerrero, Araujo’s aunt. “But she’s still with us in spirit.” By their own admission, it’s a struggle that will last the rest of their lives. “It’s like it’s happening all over again,” Sylvia Guerrero said. “Just when I started getting adjusted, I’m back to square one.”

Renowned attorney Gloria Allred, who represents Sylvia Guerrero, said it takes an enormous amount of strength to deal with the loss of a child. “The death of a child is always a tragedy,” she said. “But when it’s a murder that has caused the death it’s particularly horrific for those close to the child, especially for the mother.”

Guerrero’s 11-year-old son, Michael, also is struggling. Like his mother, he has difficulty sleeping. He also gets depressed and feels guilty, his mother said. “He says to me that he should have saved her,” Guerrero said. “We cry together a lot. He misses her so much.”

### A Mother’s Grief

Guerrero remains on disability. Contributions from local nonprofits and from the public helped defray some costs of burial and hiring a lawyer,



Gwen Araujo

February 24, 1985 -  
October 3, 2002

## PLEASE HELP SYLVIA!

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but her disability payments barely cover basic expenses, she said. Several family members helped out financially and emotionally. Siblings David and Imelda Guerrero took three months off work immediately following the slaying and have been at every court hearing.

“It helps us knowing we’re there for Gwen,” Imelda Guerrero said. “Having a strong family bond has definitely helped,” David Guerrero said. When Sylvia Guerrero can’t sleep, she makes silk flower baskets, each with its own butterfly. Her humble Newark home is adorned with butterflies. On shower curtains, drapes, comforters, hanging on walls and being held by angels, another symbol Araujo enjoyed.

Guerrero finds solace knowing that, like the 17 butterflies released at Araujo’s funeral, her child is now free of pain and hate. “I’ll come out of it,” Guerrero said. “I have to.” Through all the heartache, the family has remained close. “Being with each other helps,” Imelda Guerrero said.

The slain teen’s mother has been honored by several groups, including the Human Rights Campaign, Equality California, the Community United Against Violence and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. She also will be honored in San Francisco by Horizons Foundation, which serves the gay, lesbian and transgender community. And a tree will be planted in Araujo’s honor Friday outside Juvenile Hall in San Leandro.

The Newark City Council has pledged to take action that ensures the safety of sexual minority youth and adults. Mayor Dave Smith said city staff members will continue to work with the group “Not in Newark,” which has called for training city employees to recognize and respond to anti-gay harassment and bias, among other actions.

“Even with the loss, (Guerrero has) maintained her courage and helped other people, especially other young transgender, gay and lesbian people who are being discriminated against or are misunderstood,” Allred said. Regardless, the family remains united in their support for Araujo, and for seeing justice.

“I loved her as Eddie and I loved her as Gwen,” Sylvia Guerrero said. “I’m proud to be her mother.”

## Fund in Memory of Gwen Araujo Announced

San Francisco, CA — On the first anniversary of the savage murder of Gwen Araujo, a 17-year-old living as a male-to-female transgender woman in Newark, California, Horizons Foundation announced the establishment of a special fund named in her honor. The Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund for Transgender Education will make grants to support school-based programs in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that promote understanding of transgender people and issues.

“What happened to Gwen Araujo, her suffering and that of her family, must never happen again,” said Roger Doughty, Horizons’ Executive Director. “The LGBT movement has a history of fighting back, and this Fund is a new resource in the continuing struggle against transphobia and hate crimes.”

In keeping with Horizons’ commitment to community involvement in grantmaking, the grants made through the Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund will be advised by an advisory committee of individuals with expertise in transgender issues and school-based advocacy. Horizons has a long history of funding transgender organizations and programs; over the past two years, over 20% of Horizons’ community grants have supported the transgender population of the Bay Area. Establishment of the Fund was announced publicly today at Horizons Foundation’s annual “Celebrating Our Communities” event, at which a Cornerstone Award was presented to Gwen Araujo, and accepted on her behalf by her mother, Sylvia Guerrero.

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Horizons Foundation serves the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community by making grants, strengthening LGBT organizations and leadership, and increasing philanthropic giving. Visit [www.horizonsfoundation.org](http://www.horizonsfoundation.org)





# Remember Gwen Amber Rose Araujo!



## A Year Later, Slaying Of Transgender Teen Continues To Resonate

By Yomi S. Wronge, Mercury News

One year later, the death of 17-year-old Gwen Araujo, a transgender girl born as Eddie Araujo Jr., is still sending ripples of change across the Bay Area. The brutal killing of the Newark teenager galvanized the transgender community as never before. For many others, Gwen's story educated them about a segment of society that they didn't know or understand.

And in her hometown, her memory has fostered a measure of acceptance of transgender people that she rarely received in her own short life. "People are very open and willing to talk about issues of sexual orientation and in particular the safety of kids in the school," said Paul Clifford, a business owner in Newark and member of the local chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. "They don't care what gender she was. They think Gwen should have been better taken care of in our community and in our schools."

Prosecutors say Gwen was killed Oct. 4, 2002, in a Newark home after four local men discovered she was anatomically male. At least two had a sexual relationship with the teen. Witnesses say the men beat and strangled Gwen, then buried her body near South Lake Tahoe.

One defendant has pleaded guilty. Three others face first-degree murder charges with a hate crime enhancement because of Gwen's transgender identity. Their trial is scheduled to start in March. But more than the sensationalism of the crime itself, it seems that Gwen's life — once promising, but rife with pain — is what lingers on the collective consciousness.

"The pictures I saw in the paper is not what I saw in the coffin," said Rachael Janelle Light, a 56-year-old transgender activist from Sunnyvale who attended her funeral. "That could have been my child." Light never knew Gwen but said she got butterfly tattoos in her honor.

Other transgender people say Gwen's legacy has prompted them to do more outreach, trying to establish social networks to support transgender youth. "A lot more people are looking at themselves and thinking, 'There but for the grace of God go I,'" said Roxy Carmichael-Hart, a Hayward resident and president of Transgender San Francisco, one of the largest transgender groups in the country.

In 2002 — the deadliest year on record, according to transgender activists — 25 people were killed in the United States because of their real or perceived transgender status. "What the murder of Gwen Araujo did was gave the rest of us a look into the everyday realities that transgender people experience," said Chris Daley, co-director of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco. Daley points to the passage of a bill that bans transgender discrimination in housing and the workplace as a sign that, at least in California, attitudes are shifting.

But nowhere has that shift been more evident than in Newark, a blue-collar city of 43,000. Kate Lyness, 18, a recent graduate of Newark Memorial High School, was stunned that the hate that fueled Gwen's slaying was home-grown. Friends and her family — which has declined interview requests — say that Gwen experimented with make-up and feminine clothing through early adolescence, until she came out with her transgender identity in the ninth grade. She gave herself the name Gwen after singer Gwen Stefani of the group No Doubt.

Gwen's family and friends accepted the change. Others ostracized her for it. Lyness said it chills her to think how that climate of intolerance may have inspired four local men to commit murder. "These kids went to the same school as I did, sat at the same desks, went to same community parks, did the same things I did. . . . They were just normal kids, and that scares me."

After the arrests of Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, Jason Cazares and Jaron Nabors, the community was forced to face itself. "This whole town was in denial that this could happen here," said Judy Mellberg, 61, a resident and school volunteer. "I don't think any town this size is aware that there's really a gay, lesbian and transgender population here."

Some accused city leaders of being slow to react. But nothing of this magnitude had ever hit Newark, a city that counted only this one homicide for all of 2002. In December, three months after the slaying, Mayor Dave Smith held a community forum to address issues of safety and intolerance toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens. He called for residents to suggest ways the city could be more inclusive. There are signs of that happening now, particularly in the schools.

On the Newark Memorial High campus, where homophobic slurs used to punctuate students' casual conversations, nary an abusive word is openly heard, drama teacher Barbara Williams said. She said the school's Gay/Straight Alliance club grew from five members before the slaying into a thriving group of 20 with twice-monthly meetings. And since last year, community members have launched Not in Newark, based on the Not in Our Town national movement that encourages community response to hate crimes.

## NTAC Press Release

### FAMILY AND CITY REMEMBER GWEN ARAUJO

#### Murders of Transgenders Continue Unabated

A year can pass by in a seeming heartbeat. For family members of a slain child, though, a year can seem an eternity. On the first anniversary of her Gwen Araujo's murder, Sylvia Guerrero sat with approximately fifty family members in the front row of the Newark Memorial High School auditorium during a memorial to her daughter.

On October 3, 2002, people she knew slowly and brutally murdered 17-year-old Gwen Araujo. Gwen was murdered at a party after young men with whom she had previously had sex discovered that she was anatomically male. One confessed killer and three accused killers are in jail. Trial is currently scheduled for March 15, 2004.

The shocking news of Araujo's murder and the discovery of her body in a shallow grave weeks later made national headlines. A year has passed and there is not yet closure for family, friends, the town, or the transgender community. "It's still fresh in our heads, almost like it [happened] yesterday," said Imelda Guerrero, Araujo's aunt. Shocking as it was and as widespread the story, the murder of transgendered people continues at an escalating pace in the U.S. and around the world.

About 150 people gathered on Saturday, October 4th, for a mix of music, poetry, and speeches centering on the loss of Gwen Araujo and on the senseless killing that continues unabated. Several of Gwen's friends attended the memorial alongside government representatives, transgender activists, and other Newark citizens, including members of the anti-hate group "Not in Newark," formed after her death.

Speakers included Newark Councilman Al Nagy, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation regional representative Monica Taher, past Chairman of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) Yoseño Lewis, Remembering Our Dead founder Gwen Smith, and Gwen Araujo's mother Sylvia Guerrero.

Gwen's mother recalled the brutality of her death and the terrible pictures she was shown. "I look forward to the day that there are no more labels," Sylvia Guerrero said at the memorial. "We're all human. We all bleed the same blood." The loss has been hard on Guerrero and has cost her her job, a relationship, and her peace of mind as well as the son she now considers a daughter. Besides being a grieving mother, Guerrero, a lifetime member of NTAC, has become an ardent transgender advocate.

Councilman Nagy said the city of Newark is using the terrible experience to help the city heal and grow. Using the butterfly symbolism so important to Gwen Araujo, he described the city's efforts to foster an evolving appreciation of one another. One of these efforts is the city's work with Not in Newark members to frame several proposals pertaining to improved understanding and protection of sexual and gender minorities.

Gwen Smith reminded the audience that at least 29 transgendered people have been murdered in the year since Araujo's death, 14 of them in the United States. "These are far more than numbers," Smith said in her address, "these were human beings, like you or me, killed for no better reason than the flawed opinions and ethics of their murderers. These were sons and daughters, sisters and brothers. These were friends and lovers, people whom others held dear."

In a verse from a poem he wrote in memory of three slain transsexual teens - Gwen Araujo, Stephanie Thomas and Ukea Davis - Yoseño Lewis reminded us that their deaths must not be in vain. "Oh but my sisters you live on," he said, "Your journey has but taken another form. Your 17, 18 and 19-year-old voices resonate in the hearts of those much older than you. Your courage and joy inspire a woman's bravery that humbles this man."

"If anything, it is important to remember that Gwen was someone's daughter, someone's sister," says Ethan St. Pierre of the Remembering Our Dead project and member of the NTAC board of directors. "When we remember her, we also speak out for all the daughters, sisters, sons, brothers — and all others."

The large extended family and strong family ties are what Imelda Guerrero credited with helping the family cope with Araujo's death. "I've had shoulders to cry on, and then it would be their turn to cry on my shoulder," she reported. "There is progress being made," Guerrero added during a phone interview after the memorial. "We've gone a long way, but the fight isn't over."

## VIETNAM MAN'S FIGHT TO BECOME A WOMAN

By Nga Pham, BBC News  
Contributed by Cecilia Barzyk

Nguyen Trong Tien is an ordinary looking man. Perhaps he appears a bit younger than his 35 years and a little paler than most of the local men. But he is someone you would expect to see racing his scooter around the city, drinking with friends at a street side shop, or going football mad at the stadium on Sunday - the usual things a Saigon man of his age would do. Only he does none of these.

His typical day involves locking himself up inside the house that he shares with his sister's family - watching television or writing one of his numerous letters and petitions that he then takes to the government offices. All letters are short and to the point: Tien wants to have a sex change to become a woman.

"Since I was five or six and living with my parents in My Tho, I realized that I was not like any of the kids around," he said. "My parents sent me to the village's school and when all the boys played football in the school yard I was always sitting next to the girls. I really wanted to become one of them. I wanted to grow my hair, wear girls' pajamas and do the stuff girls do".

But Tien tried very hard to hide it, as he thought there was something wrong with him. "My parents would kick me out of the house and my friends would reject me as well as call me bad names if they knew I was such a pariah. "For a very long time, I was trying to suppress my real person, to act and live like a boy, then a man. But the female inside me was always struggling to get out and I was really, really scared".

When he was 16, Tien left home for Saigon. He was to train to become an accountant and to live in the city with his brother and sisters who had moved there earlier. Life in the big city, although busy and exciting, did not make his problems go away. He had both girlfriends and boyfriends. But he found he could not be with a girl as he felt as female as his partner. "And I cannot be with a boyfriend either, as I am not homosexual. I want to love a man, but only as a woman, complete with a woman's body."

### Petitioning

That year he wrote his first petition asking for an operation to turn into a woman and sent it to a hospital specializing in cosmetic surgeries. He never received a reply. Tien has been asking for an operation for 20 years now. He went to numerous hospitals with the request and the answer so far is 'No'. "Most of the time, they think I am a pervert, someone who is obsessed with a sick idea," he said. "So they ignore me". "Only once, at a major clinic in Ho Chi Minh, I was told they would do the operation if I could provide a permission from the Justice Ministry. "I went to the city's Justice Department but the officials there flatly refused to grant me the permission, saying there is no such law in Vietnam".

### IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [Susan@hairzapper.com](mailto:Susan@hairzapper.com).

### HEY!

#### \$10 Bucks Per Issue Gets You An Ad Like This...!

Tall, feminine, graceful closet CD seeks Big Sister to help with shopping and makeup tips. I live alone so it's helpful if you can come here, but I can certainly travel. SF Area. Call (415) 000-0000.

Up to 40 words only \$10.00. Send text of ad and Check or Money Order to TGSF's PO Box, ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!

Not only is there no legal basis, the concept of sex change is alien in Vietnam. It is usually associated with evil and decadent society in the West. Just a couple of years ago, there was not even a Vietnamese word for transsexuals. There was a French derivative - *pede* - which means homosexual.

The Vietnamese openly dislike homosexuality, because they think it is a vice. But at least homosexuals have their place in the society, however lowly and shameful that may be. There are also transvestites. They are often mistaken for homosexuals but many Vietnamese actually find their way of talking and dressing up entertaining.

Transsexuals are a whole new species in Vietnam. Their number is unknown, their needs are not answered. The phenomenon is deeply hidden and highly illegitimate. Tien soon found himself in even more trouble as people around him now knew his story. He could not go out of the house without being teased or harassed.

### Drastic Decision

The situation became more and more insufferable every day, and a couple of years ago, after a great deal of thought, Tien decided to resort to an extreme solution.

One morning, he took hold of a razor, and a minute later passed out with his penis dangling by just a sliver of skin. He woke up in a hospital and begged the doctors to operate him and turn him into a woman since the damage was already done. But they refused and decided to reattach his genitals.

"They did it without painkillers, while shouting at me for being a sick trouble maker. You can't imagine how painful it was. But I didn't die." He said he will not jeopardize his life again. "Now I don't want to die and I won't give up."

The scar has now healed. Tien still lives with my sister's family. He is jobless and friendless and life is still extremely difficult. "But an online newspaper in Vietnam has published my story. Maybe one day I will be allowed to have my operation. I still have hope that it will happen," he said.

The  
**Executive Committee  
of TGSF**  
wishes you and yours a very  
**Safe, Prosperous,  
and Happy Thanksgiving!**

**GIANNA E. ISRAEL**

415-558-8058

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